INDEPE

Heads rebel against drive for standards

By Ben Russell Education Correspondent

HEAD teachers threatened a rebellion against government targets for raising standards in the 3Rs yesterday, warning they phasis on exam targets could would refuse to set "unrealistic"

The National Association of Headteachers (NAHT) warned that schools would not co-operate with national targets "plucked out of the air" to meet political aims.

The move threatens to undermine a ceotral plank of the Government's drive to raise standards in schools.

Ministers want 80 per cent of 11-year-olds to reach expected standards in English and 75 per cent to hit certain levels of maths by 2002.

Just over 60 per cent achieve the required level in national curriculum tests. David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, has promised to resign

if the targets are not met. But headteachers meeting in Eastbourne accused the Governmeot of selecting arhitrary and unrealistic goals for local

David Hart, the NAHT gencourt action if local authorities imposed targets on schools against their will.

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He said: "It would be helpful if there was agreement hut if agreement can't be reached vail. Just because the Governmeot waots to reverse established practice in target setting it does not mean we have to roll over and say they have

got it right." Delegates unanimously passed motions attacking the Government for imposing tar- plause from delegates at the gets and called for schools to be

of Eastway Primary School in The Wirral, warned that the emmake schools "educational sweat shops". He said: "It's a surreal world if childreo's best performance is met with league tables and public shame.

"To achieve the targets will schools be turned into exam factories, just simple factual machines to get us through the tests? If we are going to improve standards the Government needs to work with us, rather

in very difficult waters. Target

The School Standards and Framework Bill, at present passallow local authorities to send in a school and a local education inspectors, appoint new gover- authority cannot agree on a tarnors or take control of hudgets get we will publish both targets if schools are thought likely to and see which is right. The Gov-

miss targets for raising standards. eral secretary, pledged to take ers should only be used in extion authorities woo't meet treme circumstances and be them, theo we will have to threatened to press for a judi-

out of five 11-year-olds will

ed of them."

free to set their own goals.

Brian McNutt, head teacher

than impose national targets." Mr Hart said: "I will jump for joy if we hit the targets, but if we can't it could be due to a whole range of factors. The Government is bravely treading

setting is not an exact schace."

Stephen Byers, the school standards minister, said the the schools position must pre-targets were "both reasonable ernors to be given compulsory and realistic". He said: "Surely it's cot unreasonable to expect that in four years time four have reached the level expect-

> National executive member Mick Brookes won rapturous ap

unioo's national conference wheo be told them: "This is a time to stand up and say no." Mr Brookes, head teacher of Sherwood Junior School in Nottinghamshire, said: "There's

a very clear message from the National Council to all our members: do cot be builied and pressurised into accepting unreasonable targets. We will come up with our own considered targets." Delegates also attacked the

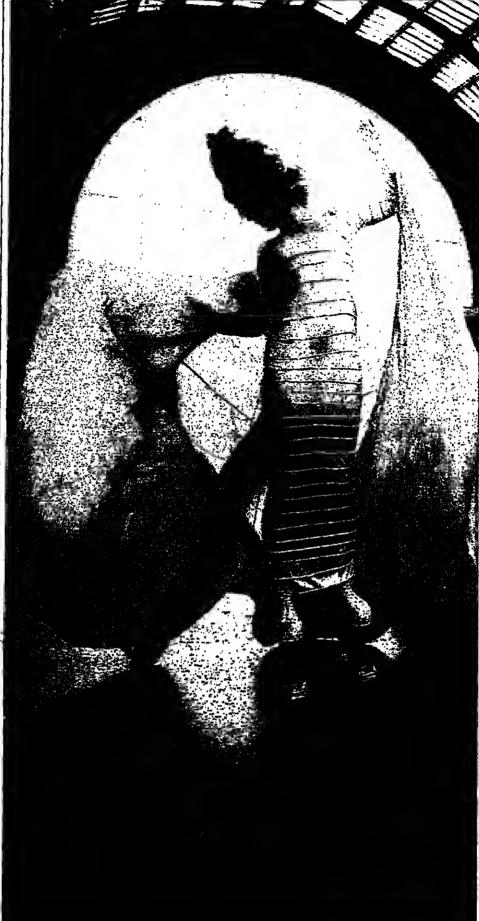
growth of production-line education, insisting that schools were "places of wisdom, not factories of knowledge".

Chris McDonnell, head of Pulfen Primary School in Burntwood, Staffordshire, said targets did not reflect a school's full role. He said: "Schools are not factories. Knowledge is not a commodity to be sold. They are people places."

Graham Lane, education chairman of the Local Goving through the Commons, will ernment Association, said: "If emmeot's targets for 2002 are But Mr Hart said the pow- very generalised. Some educa-

work out what happens." cial review if local authorities The headteachers demandused the legislarioo too readily. ed a change in the law to limit the powers of "school governors from hell". They asked for govtraining and appealed for legislation setting strict boundaries on their role.

The conference heard the case of a governor who had stood in a school car park timing when teachers came and



Emma Tebridor, a member of Seven Sisters Group, takes the platform at King's Cross station, north London. Further events are planned for Waterloo Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Put shoulder to the wheel, Blair tells the nation

By Colin Crown Cruel Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR last night adopted the hairshirt approach by declaring that he fears Britain has been paying itself too much, and calling on the nation to "put its shoulder to the

wheel". The Prime Minister's clarion call for pay restraint to the Confederation of British Industry last night fitted oeatly into the philosophy for hard work and modest rewards which he has handed down to his children, Euan, Nicky and Kathryn.

In an interview to be published today, Mr Blair reveals one of his secrets for success in life, He told Eva magazine that he was worried that life was too easy for his three children and declared that "a little bit of a struggle" did them oo harm.

"You've got to be able to make your own way, your own life and I think to do well in life you need a little hit of struggle."

The words amount to a different strand of the same philosophy Mr Blair delivered in his speech to the annual dinner of the CBI. The growth in private sector earnings gave "serious cause for concern", the Prime on their kids. We treat it as Minister told his audience from though it's not just part of the

the world of big business. "It would be the worst of short-termism now to pay our- the children." selves more today at the cost of higher interest rates, fewer jobs and slower growth tomorrow. This must apply to private and public sector alike.

"It really is up to us: the greater the responsibility, the er tax rate of 40 per ceot could higger the reward," he said. And Mr Blair said that eco-

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oomic success coold oot be achieved by the Government alone, adding: "The whole nation must put its should to the

The "sound and prudent" message about the ecocomy is also being used in the Blair household for the family

The Prime Minister coofirmed in the Eva interview that the Blairs claimed child benefit in common with the rest



struggle' does you no harm

"Everyone gets it. It's up to you what you spend it on. but I do think most people spend it family income and we do try to

It is another lessoo for living from the Blair kitchen, that hig business may like to follow.

But there was a sting in the tail. The Prime Minister pointed out that those on the highsee child benefit taxed in future.

Fiasco over Lawrence arrest

By Kathy Marks

THE senior detective who led the Stephen Lawrence murder that reasonable grounds for investigation admitted yesterday that until very recently he did not understand the legal grounds on which police officers

can arrest suspects. Former detective superintendent Brian Weeden, who the force, told the public inquiry into Stephen's death that he had believed that hard evidence was required before arrests ter taking legal advice earlier months, said yesterday that his rest until you had evidence. That

ment for the public inquiry, he said, that it became clear to him suspicion were sufficient.

The inquiry has beard that the five white youths alleged to have stabbed Stephen in a racist attack in Eltham, south-east London, in 1993 were named by numerous informants in the retired in 1994 after 30 years in first 48 hours. But they were not arrested for at least a fortnight and attempts to prosecute them were unsuccessful

Mr Weeden, who led the could be made. It was only af- murder investigation for 14 did not have the power to ar-

this year while preparing a state-ment for the public inquiry, he states strategy had been to wait for was the legal position as you saw evidence before moving in. it," he said. "That's perfectly "I had oever before in any murder case arrested anyone without evidence, as opposed to information," he said.

Michael Mansfield QC, counsel for the Lawrence family, pointed out that he had given a different explanation when interviewed by Kent police officers on behalf of the Police Complaints Authority last year.

"Yoo maintained, and you only recently shifted, that oot only did you want evidence, you

true," Mr Weeden replied.

Mr Mansfield asked: "Do yoo not find it rather disturbing that it has taken all this time for you to recognise a fairly basic teoet of criminal law?". "I think it's regrettable," he

Mr Weedeo denied that when he finally decided to make arrests, it was in response to "extraneous pressures" such as a high-profile meeting in London the previous day between the Lawrences and President Nelson Mandela

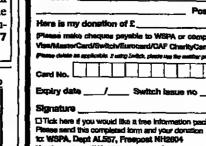
"Without disrespect to the gentleman in question, a very wellrespected statesman, it was like

a drop in the ocean," he said. "There was pressure right from the very beginning. There was considerable media interest in the case: there was interest also from the Home Office; Members of Parliament were asking questioos; televisioo crews were virtually camping on

during his period in charge of the case, at least 20 major errors and omissions were made. The inquiry cootinues today.

the doorstep." He admitted, however, that

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training and education.

Iraq demands war compensation from Britain

By lan Burrell

Home affairs Correspondent

IRAQ is demanding compensation from Britain over dam-

uranium shells in the Gulf War. eral, Kofi Annan, accusing of Defence". Britain and the United States of Mr al-Sahaf told Mr Annan:

exposing vast areas [of Iraq] to fatal radioactive pollotion". The complaint followed the

release of what Mr al-Sahaf described as a "new and addiage allegedly caused by depleted tional admission" by the Foreign Office on 30 April in an official The fraqi Foreign Minister, statement that "British tanks Mohammed Saced al-Sahaf, used depleted uranium (DU) has sent a complaint to the shells during the Gulf War on United Nations Secretary Gen- orders from the British Ministry

"A number of diseases, unfamiliar in the past, have been registered, such as foetal and bone deformities and other cases that cannot be explained.

"Individuals living in the bombarded areas suffer from such diseases, in addition to rising cases of child leukaemia." In a letter to the Labour MP George Galloway, written on 30 April, Derek Fatchett, the Foreign Office minister, admitted

letter stated: "DU has the potential to cause adverse health effects if ingested, inhaled (for example, from DU dust in the vicinity of a target...) or absorbed...". Britain admits to firing fewer than 100 DU shells in the 1991 conflict but says US froops fired considerably more.

DU had harmful effects. The sanctions against Iraq, called on Britain to co-operate with the Iraqi authorities in investigating so-called Guif War Syndrome. He believes British Gulf War veterans and Iraqi people were suffering the same symptoms.

A Ministry of Defeoce spokesman said: "The UK has never attempted to conceal its use of depleted uraoium Yesterday, the Labour backbencher Tam Dalyell, who has ammunition in the Gulf." campaigned for the lifting of

Poisonous legacy, page 13

Today's news

Rock stars get the Internet blues

ROCK stars and record companies lined up to complain yesterday that fans downloading free music from the Internet is costing them millions and could kill off the British music industry. Page 3

Newcastle in crisis NEWCASTLE Uoited appeared to be in crisis last night as two directors walked out of the troubled football club after apparently losing out in a power struggle with Sir John Hall, the multimillionaire businessman who has been the driving force behind Page 5

which showed people cooking and eating a human placenta has been criticised by the Broadcasting Standards Com-

INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 ● CROSSWORDS, P32 AND EYE P10 ● TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 ● FULL CONTENTS, P2

In the Eye 28 pages of film and music

On song for France'98 Part 2 of your guide to the best of the World Cup records

■ What's eating Leonardo? Why is young di Caprio muscling in as 'American Psycho' moves



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UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

Northern Ireland agreement: Parties focus on assembly elections as young are helped to look to the future

Splits open among **Ulster** Unionists

ByDavid McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

ARMS de-commissioning and Unionist party surfaced in all sides positioned themselves for assembly elections next

paramilitary groups made it surrender of weapons. clear, in much the same terms as republicans have already likely to wait in vain for any decommissioning of weaponry to the security forces.

not regard the war against the tion is regarded as academic. Good Friday agreement to be over in political terms.

On de-commissioning, leaders of the Ulster Democratic party, which is linked to the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association, had what was described as a constructive meeting with John de Chastelain, the the international body on de-

Gary McMichael, the UDP hitious to expect loyalist paramilitaries to give up their weapons before the IRA has

Mr McMichael said the meeting had been constructive and another would be held

This is all part of the oogoing process. We have always ty do not accept the referendum taken a responsible attitude on this issue, but people should not increasingly vocal in their opexpect loyalists to decommission position to the party line, while the IRA remain fully Tony Blair, the Prime Minarmed and have oot eveo declared the end of the conflict,"

did then it would clear the way

Franciet folloy, a Sinn Fein ARMS de-commissioning and councillort said it was unlikely the divisions in the Ulster the IRA would hand over any Unionist party surfaced in guns or explasives, adding: "The Northern Ireland yesterday, as IRA haven been defeated and unless you have the defeat of one organisation over the other or one government over an-Those speaking for loyalist other then you don't have a

Legislation passed in Parliament last year provided imdone, that the authorities are munity from prosecution to people handing over weapons

on. Since no such handover.
Unionist party members do seems likely, however, the ques-

The decision by the Ulster Unionists not to allow Jeffrey Donaldson, the anti-agreement MP, to stand for the assembly was attacked by John Hunter, who also oposed the deal and who has already secured an assembly nomination.

In a quietly combative BBC Canadian geoeral who heads interview, Mr Hunter said splits were developing in the party, saying the Donaldson decision had been a mistake, which laeder, said: "It would he am- showed there were those in the party who were not interested in unity.

He added: "Jeffrey Donaldsaid it is prepared to give up son reached out the hand of friendship, saying he wanted to see party unity. This is hardly the best way to display party unity."

Mr Hunter's intervection is seen as a clear sign that elements in David Trimble's parresult as final, and may become

ister, is due in Belfast again next week. He will also go to Duhlin for the first time since taking of-"We would like the IRA to fice. The assembly elections declare the war is over. If they will be hold on June 25.



Many children have had to overcome the trauma of the Troubles Photograph: Alan Lewis

Children of the Troubles must rebuild lives

By Kim Sengupta

WHEN Dusty Spence was the commander of the Loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force prisoners in the Maze, a new inmate was sent to his wing. He had been found guilty of shooting two people in the head. He was

still wearing his school blazer.
It is one of the more extreme examples of where youth and laughter went in the past 30 years of Northern Irish troubles.

Hundreds were traumatised, many for the rest of their lives. A huge number experienced violence themselves or through their families. Two hundred and fifty seven young people under the age of 18 were killed.

It is against this grim background that the welfare agencies Save The Children, Barnado's and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children vesterday called for the appointmeet of a Commissioner for Children in Northern Ireland.

The charities said: "Children have lived with the hrutalising effects of the militarisation of their communities and have been harassed and abused by both paramilitary organisations and security forces.

Boys and girls have seen their fathers and mothers executed by masked gunmen in their homes, people killed and mutilated in bomb explosions, teachers shot in classrooms, homes firebombed, school huses hijacked and set oo fire.

In addition, children themselves have been recruited by the paramilitaries and takeo part in terrorist acts.

A study by the University of Ulster showed that one in five childreo aged between 10 and 11 had been oear a bomb explosion and one in five have had a frieod or relatioo killed. In areas where paramili-

taries have been particularly active, nine out of 10-schoolchildren had seeo hijacked vehicles set on fire, and five out of 10 had witnessed a shooting; peace we'll learn torstorget all Several other studies have

shown that, as to he expected,

constant exposure to violence has led to depression, acute anxiety, oeurosis and aggres-

Yet, Mane Smyth, director of the University of Ulster's Cause of the Trouble study, points out there are just six dedicated psychiatric beds for adolescents in the entire region.

Ms Smyth, whose 18-month research project formed the ha-sis of the charities appeal yesterday, said: "The resources for dealing with children's psychological problems are woefully madequate and the issue cries out for a lot more to be done.

The charities said that the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, has been very sympathetic and they hope she will back their call for a com-

Together, they have organ-ised a conference, which started in Belfast yesterday, where children from across the European Unioo have met with the children of Ulster for a series of discussions and seminars.

The areas on the edges of Belfast's sectarian divide has seen some of the worst of the violence, and it still goes on. Michael, 14, was born and

grew up in Andersonstown. He has a hrother serving a prison seotence for Republican paramilitary-connected offences. He said: "We all like to think

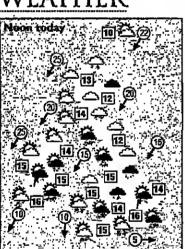
it's going to get better, but you can never be too sure. My mam cries a lot about my brother being inside, and I feel sad as well because we were very close. "If you grow up around here

you see bombs, you see cars being set oo fire. You may get used to it, but it's oo way to live." Emma Carpeoter, 17, a

Protestant from oorth Belfast, said: "Of course kids are going to have psychological problems growing up here. My little hrother used to get very scared at the sounds of bombs going off and wet the bed,"

"But perhaps if we have this. People tend to forget the bad things in life."

WEATHER



with light showers, and heavier showers may reach south-eastern Scotland this evening. Western Scotland will have a better chance of sun, but there will be sharp showers around. England and Wales will have another very showery day with the best of any sunshine in the west. Some of the showers will be neavy with thunder, and a band of more organised thundery rain over southeast England this morning will spread northwards.

Outlook for the next few days Tornorrow will be very showery. Eastern Scotland will be cloudy with heavy, perhaps thundery rain. Western Scotland and Northern treland will also have heavy rain at times, but there will be a chance of some sun. England and scattered heavy showers, locally thundery. These warmer conditions will spread northwards this weekend

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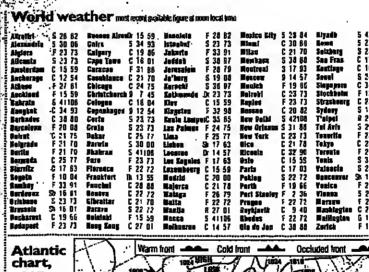
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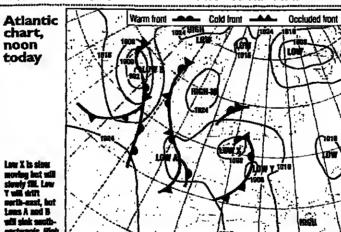
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Lighting-up times

Sun & moon San rises 04 53 Sun sets 21 04 Moon rises 07 38 Moon sets 23 33





MICHAEL **HANLON** WEATHER

WISE

From the grouod, measurehas been getting steadily warmer - by between 0.3C and 0.6C over the past 100 years. This warming has been largely attributed to the effects the surface is the main process of man-made carbon dioxide and other chemicals.

from space, things look a littic different. Satellite meano warming trend, and reveal past three decades. Analysis of the satellite data reveals the extreme El Nino episodes into account such effects.

of 1983 and 1997, and the tions of voicances like E Chichon and Mt Pinatubo.

Greenhouse advocates may douht the satellite data, insisting the computer models which predict a steep tem-

perature rise resulting from the near doubling of CO2. seeo this century must be correct. In other words, the WARMER or cooler? It de- satellites must be wrong. pends on your viewpoint. Trouble is, the data have been checked and rechecked, and ments indicate that the Earth no errors have been found.

One answer may lie in the behaviour of the lower atmosphere in the tropics. It was assumed that radiatioo from by which heat may be lost from the Earth. But there has been Controversially though, a growing realisation that evaporatioo and convection processes are more imporsurements of temperatures tant as ways of transferring in the lower atmosphere show heat into space. The effects of water vapour - the most ima slight global cooling in the portant greenhouse gas - are poorly understood. Areas of the atmosphere with exthat the greatest impact on tremely low humidities can act global temperatures seen re- as holes in the greenhouse, alcently has been the works of lowing energy to freely radiwholly natural events such as ate into space. We need to take

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A new CD costs £14.49. Or, you could download it for free on the Internet. No wonder the music business is sounding off

By Paul McCann Media Editor

ROCK STARS and record companies lined up to complain yesterday that fans downloading free music from the Internet is costing them millions and could kill off the British

music industry. Launching a new lobby group, British Musical Rights, record company bosses hlamed the telecom industry for undermining its business and called on the Government to set earn money through touring. up a task-force to strengthen in- After four years we still owe our ternational copyright agree- record company £350,000."

cause of the threat to their income posed by fans placing CD-quality recordings on the Internet. Anyone with the right to make that investment in new technology can download their music and keep it for free.

Slater, whose band had a oumber ooe hit with "Tune In Turn On Cop", said: "If my copyright isn't protected I go out -a little twinkly light in the Cool Britannia sign goes out - and I'm just one of tens of thousands of musicians who rely on that.

"It's virtually impossible to

William Booth of Sony Mu-Beatles producer Sir George sic sald: "My company invests a web site. Martin and Ashley Slater of the millions of pounds each year in band Freakpower gathered with new writing talent and new by fans in their bedrooms hap- sites exist on the World Wide record company executives be- composers and to recover that py to share their rare tracks and

money we need to be paid. If we bootleg versions. MP3 afidon't get paid because it goes on the Internet we can't continue talent and we can't continue to pay people to collect money for those new composers."

Internet service providers and telecommunication companies which carried the electronic messages should share some responsibility, he said.

At the heart of the industry's worries is a new digital software - freely available oo the Internet - known as MP3 or MPEG. which can take as little three minutes to download a song in perfect digital CD quality from

cionados trade songs and whole CDs - if you don't bring something to trade it is known as "leeching". Nevertheless, MP3 versions of CDs get left on the web for anyone to download.

And it only takes one Internet address for a CD of a popular band to become wellknown and thousands of copies can be made and thousands of potential sales lost,

In America the record industry, led by David Geffen of Geffen music, has clamped down on MP3 sites, using copyright legislation to close as many as 250. However, the British record industry was told Most MP3 sites are created yesterday that as many as 26,000

down fans can set up a new weh them teod to be guitar bands out an encryption technology site or they can disappear into the myriad so-called "chat rooms" and discussion zones of the Internet where they can exchange their music without being traced.

"It can feel quite seedy," says Internet journalist Simon Waldman, "You chat for a bit and then ask them if they have against students in a hack bedanything to swap. They usually have Pearl Jam or another American band, either that or you get directed to an address for a site in Poland where you can get a free Spice Girls

The overwhelming numbers of young American men using the Internet means that the

The problem for the au- bands with the largest numbers tem of the future for music sales. like Metallica and Nirvana that allows it to charge people which has 3,462 MP3 sites com- for on-line music, it would have

ok Website: Radiohead 🏝

OK WEBSITE:

RADIOHEAD

Radiohead are:

Fans can visit Radiohead's Internet site above and, from left, Led Zeppelin, The Beatles and Nirvana

In the UK, the British Phonographic Institute has acted to remove unlicensed music from just five sites - but such is the confusion over Internet copyright law that they acted not rooms bot some of Britain's higgest companies. BT, the BBC, Demon Internet and Virgin Net had all unknowingly placed music that could be

forced them to remove it. The irony for the music inlikely to be the distribution sys- playable music that means they

thorities is that once closed of free music sites devoted to Once record companies figure they ever will playing in the local pared to Bob Dylan's paltry 546. a way to sell CDs without the

> pensive high street shop. David Bowie and The Rolling Stones have invested in veotures overseen by Larry Rosen, a former record industry executive who has pioneered selling and marketing music on the Internet.

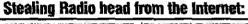
record and keeping it in an ex-

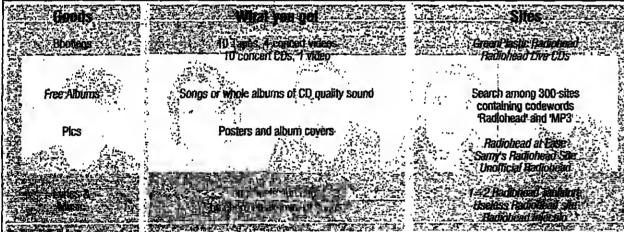
For less well known bands, however, the Internet provides copied on their sites and the BPI a new way of reaching an audience. Unsigned bands like Nottingham's Slug Oven have dustry is that the Internet is created their own sites with

can reach more people than

And not everyone agrees that the threat is yet so great: "It is still a long way down the line that hardware that you can cost of actually pressing a download on will be as obiquitous as the hi-fi," says John Harris of music magazine Select. "And it's wrong that the copyright police should be stamping oo 14-year old bedroom enthusiasts.

One 25-year old on-line pirate music specialist is uncoocerned about the new lobby group: "By the time they have changed the law to deal with MP3 there will be some oew technology aloog that their law woo't cover. It all changes too fast for them."





Woodward lawyer in row over guilt claim

in New York

A LAWYER who represented British namny Louise Woodward yesterday rejected claims that she told a United States police officer who arrested her for drunken driving that she now believed her client guilty of murder.

"It is not true, it is a fabrication," the British-born lawyer, Elaine Whitfield-Sharp, insisted vesterday.

Ms Whitfield-Sharp, who admitted the drunken driving offence in court in Massachusetts on Tuesday, was the junior member of the defence team in last year's trial of Woodward for the murder of baby Matthew Eappen, which drew immense international attention.

Woodward has been living in the lawyer's home in Boston pending the outcome of

Ms Whitfield-Sharp was pulled over for erratic driving last Friday.

The police officer involved is understood to have stated in his official report that Ms Whitfield-Sharp complained of havmg been under unusual stress because she had reached the conclusion since the trial's end that Ms Woodward was indeed guilty of murdering the boy, who



Whitfield-Sharp's client,

died from massive head wounds aged just eight months while in

The police report was not publicly available yesterday, making verification of the officer's alleged statement impossible.

While such a claim could be deeply embarrassing to the defence, it could have no material bearing on the case, if only because of Ms Whitfield-Sharp's state of intoxication at

Woodward was found guilty

case and given a mandatory life

Later, however, Judge Hiller Zobel reduced the conviction to one of manslaughter and ruled that the 279 days she had already served in prison was sufficient punishment.

Since an appeal hearing at the highest Massachusetts' court on 6 March this year. Woodward has remained in the state, forbidden access to her passport, awaiting the outcome.

The court's panel of seven jodges, which is expected to release its ruling any day, has a range of possible options, including confirming Judge Zobel's decision, which would allow Woodward to return home, or reinstating the life sen-

Offering a starkly different version of what occured at her arrest last Friday, Ms Whitfield-Sharp said it was the arresting officer, a state trooper, who introduced Woodward to their

She insisted yesterday: "I was stopped and the trooper said to me. You have been drinking, because of the Louise Wood-

"I said: That was back in October and this is May.' He then said 'If you have sex with me, on 31 October last year of I'll let you off.' I told him to f...

patients put up in hotel

CHILDREN who have had operations to remove their tonsils are being put up in a hotel to

free up hospital beds.

Derriford hospital in Piymouth, Devon, is paying £60 a night for the children to stay in the hotel with their parents. So far six have enjoyed bed and breakfast just ten minutes from the hospital so that they can get back quickly if there are any complications.

It is believed to be the first scheme of its sort in the country and if it is successful it may be extended to other patients.

Terri West, spokeswoman for the bospital, said the aim of the scheme was to free up beds rather than to save money on care. "This is still very much a trial and it involves patients who do not need medical care. It is for their reassurance if they live some distance away from the hospital that they feel they can come back if they need."

There are no medical facilities at the hotel but the hospital says they are not needed because all of the patients involved are fit to be discharged.

"Obviously nobody will be discharged unless they are fit to be," said Ms West.



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Japanese Emperor's visit: Former prisoners of war turn their backs as demands for apology and compensation grow

Welsh chorus of disapproval greets Akihito

SCORES of former prisoners of done his bit in protesting at the war turned their backs in protest yesterday as Emperor Akihito arrived at Cardiff Castle as part of his state visit to

Many former British servicemen, some decorated with medals and former prison camp badges, jeered as the Emperor and his wife - accompanied by the Prince of Wales - were driven through the castle gates where they met local dignitaries and were entertained by a programme of traditional Welsh music from the Mass Choir of the Welsh Association of Male Voice Choirs.

The protest by Welsh war veterans followed a similar demonstration in London on Tuesday when hundreds of PoWs turned their backs on the Emperor and his wife as they rode by with the Queen in a royal carriage.

One of those who attended yesterday's protest, Wyndham Jeremiah, 78, from Newbridge, said he was pleased with the way it had been carried out. "It is the only form of protest we have got. I was a hit surprised about the booing but turning your back on the Japanese is an insult and that's what we wanted to do. We ex-servicemen usually protest in a quiet way."

Oliver Davis, 82, also from Newbridge, said he felt he had

Emperor's visit. He said: "I wasn't in the Far East but I am bere for those who were. I was in the Royal Pioneer Corps in Europe hut I felt it was my duty to be present today.

"I don't think we will achieve anything hut it is still good to make a stand."

One former PoW bumped into the widow of a fellow serviceman who spent three and a half years with him in camps in the Far East. Glyn Thomas, 76, from

Neath, recognised the number on a prison camp ID badge pinned to the jacket of his fellow inmate's widow.

Monica Yabsley was at the protest on behalf of her husband Ray, an ex-RAF man who died 11 years ago.

She said: "It was lovely to meet someone who went through the same thing as my

Japanese teacher Sachi Ebisu, 21, from Osaka, said she was "saddened" by the protest. Currently teaching Japanese in Cardiff, she said: "I hope this doesn't strain relations between

our two countries. or has the responsibility for what happened during the war because he was just a little boy. Many soldiers used the name of the Emperor, but after the war Japanese relations."

they were killed for the crime of abusing his name.

"I feel very embarrassed about this insult to him."

A handful of war veterans held up a Union flag and turned their backs as the Emperor and Empress left the castle vesterday afternoon.

Several hundred spectators raised a muted cheer as the motorcade drove away. Banners were held up bearing the messages "apologise", written in Japanese, and "compensate our ex-PoWs".

Liberal Democrat MP Mark Oaten, co-chairman of the allparty parliamentary group on Far East prisoners of war, claimed yesterday that the Emperor had moved closer towards an apology.

Mr Oaten said: "The Emperor's sympathy with former PoWs is becoming increasingly clear as his visit progresses.

"Inch by inch, the Emperor and his entourage have moved towards an apology, and I congratulate them on this sympa-

"Now that the Emperor bas seen at first hand the strength of feeling that exists in this coun-"I do not think the Emper- try, he surely must make his government realise that unless there is a clear apology from them, there will always be a thorn in the side of Anglo-





Emperor Aldhito in the grounds of Cardiff Castle yesterday. Right: Frederick Chandler, one of the veterans who protested outside Photographs: Rob Stratton:

Ancient history in a modern world

By Lesley Downer

WHILE the British press gives front-page coverage to the veterans and their protest against Emperor Akihito's visit, the average Japanese newspaper reader is probably barely aware of it.

Japan, like Britain, has its right-wing press. The Sankei and

bined circulation of 12 million, described the PoWs' protest as an insult to the Emperor and attacked Britain for its barbarous colonial rule.

But, says Satoshi Hashimoto, London bureau chief of the mainstream Asalui newspaper, "Most Japanese do not feel offended or insulted. Emperor Hithe Yomiuri, both staunchly rohito [Akihito's father] was

ly the older generation. But to Akihito we feel indifference. People are more interested in the World Cup.

The Japanese government will never make direct payment to the prisoners of war. But they could make the gap smaller. The Japanese should understand the agony and

abeth. She should apologise to the Boer War victims and to the Chinese people for the Opium

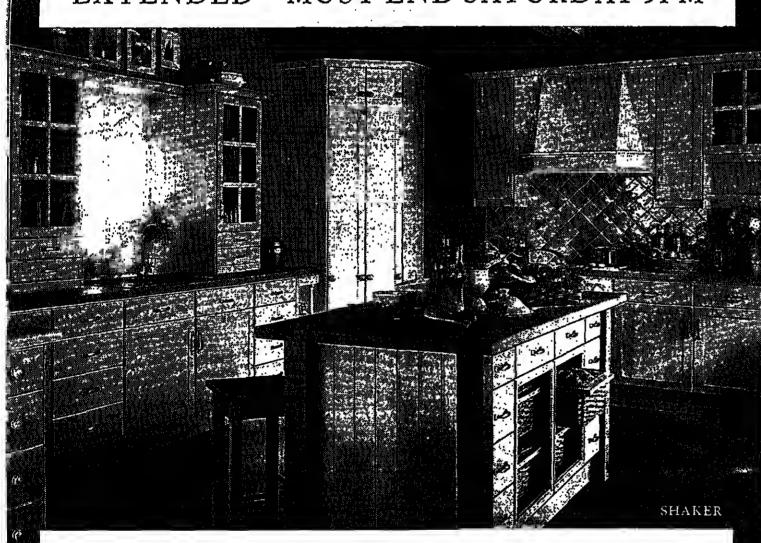
Yesterday's Asahi gave front page coverage to the Emperor's visit, with a picture of the Emperor and Empress standing and the glitzy wedding of pop with the Queen and Prince Philip and the beadline "Imstrong feeling of the PoWs. perial couple welcomed to

special for Japanese, especial- This is the same for Queen Eliz- Britain". Only on the back page is there a picture of PoWs turning their backs in protest.

Apart from the World Cup. the big stories in Japan yesterday were the conviction of a member of the Aum cult responsible for the Tokyo subway gas killings megastar Seiko Matsuda. As for the PoWs - old news and fairly irrelevant to modern Japanese.

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IN BRIEF

Fresh assault claims against **Wormwood Scrubs staff**

INMATES at Wormwood Scrubs jail have made fresh claims of assault by staff, the Prison Service confirmed yesterday. A governor at the west London jail is looking at one complaint and the police team already probing claims of brutality at the jail is investigating another, a Prison Service spokesman said-

. It is understood that another complaint about an attack by staff has also been made. A source familiar with the claims said they were of "medium-scale" assaults. "We are not talking about repetitive brutality on the scale we witnessed before, these were one-off assaults."

Nine staff were suspended in March after an internal Prison Service inquiry was launched into claims that eight inmates were repeatedly assaulted by officers. The Prison Service spokesman said: "Prisons occasionally receive allegations made by prisoners about treatment by staff. All allegations are investigated by prison management or where appropriate the police."

Record fines after truancy

A COUPLE have been ordered to pay record fines because their son has been playing truant from school, it was revealed last night. David and Karen Seaton were fined a £1,000 after being taken to court for failing to ensure 15-year old Steven attended Marple Hall School, pear Stockport.

The order - imposed at Stockport magistrates' court and in Mr and Mrs Seaton's absence - comes as a boost to Tony Blair's crackdown on truanting pupils. Passing sentence magistrates said it was the "parents' responsibility to ensure that their child attended school".

Under the 1996 Education Act, the Department for Edncation and Employment requires that local authorities do everything within their power to enforce school attendance, and this can lead to prosecution.

BBC crew detained in Yemen

A BBC foreign correspondent and his crew were being detained by Yemeni authorities last night after they were discovered filming without permission. The crew have been held in San'a, the capital, since Tuesday afternoon. They were investigating the recent outhreak of abductions for BBC 2's Corresponderu. The BBC would not name the crew until their families had been informed, but the correspondent for the region, Rageh Omaar was named late yesterday as one of the team.

Cut-price World Cup kit

OFFICIAL England and Scotland World Cup shirts went on sale at reduced prices at Tesco yesterday in its latest assault on inflated prices for brand-name products. Tesco is selling the kit for 25 per cent less than other retailers. The shirts were bought secretly, without makers' approval, from wholesalers in Europe in the "grey market", which is so named hecause it is neither illegal nor accepted business practice.

Joyriders wreak havoc

JOYRIDERS caused thousands of pounds of damage when they went on the rampage - in a stolen armoured personnel carrier. They smashed fences, ploughed through hedges and banks, flattened a forestry plantation, knocked down dozens of mature trees and trashed an ex-army jeep at Highlands Park outdoor centre in Wiltshire over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Students to repay hoax cash

THIRTEEN fine arts students from the University of Leeds whu were awarded a £1,126 grant by the university's student union for a "contemporary arl show" which lurned out to be a hoax trip to the Costa del Sol, have told the union's executive committee that they are to repay the money tomorrow.

Jesuits pay for priest's appeal

THE Society of Jesus is to pay the legal costs of a self-confessed paedophile to appeal against a conviction, it was confirmed last night.

But the society said the move did not mean it thought Jesuit Pearce was innocent.

The 57-year-old priest was jailed for five years in September for indecent assault on four of his pupils at Stonyhurst Roman Catholic college in Lancashire.

He admitted assaults on three of them but denied a number of attacks on one boy, now aged 21. He intends to appeal against

that conviction and the Society of Jesus will pay his legal costs, said Fr Ian Tomlinson, Provincial Secretary for Great Britain. "We are not supporting his

appeal because we think he is innocent. He thinks he is innocent and so in some sort of justice he has a right to bave that tried, doesn't be? "We don't go around selecting people to support. He's a member of the society and so

a member of a family. He's a

member of the society and

that's a full-time experience," he added. "We simply do our best to make sure that we help him to be a person that does not offend

He went on: "When he leaves prison someone will have to look after him and we will do that." At his trial at Preston Crown Court, Judge Reginald Lockett told Chaning-Pearce: "You committed these offences over a period of time when you were in a positiun of special trust with the boys."

Chaning-Pearce assaulted the four boys, aged between 12 and 16, in his study and in a tree

house in the school grounds. The boy whom the priest denied assaulting told the court he felt "scared and sick" after the attack

Chaning-Pearce was removed from the school in 1995 when a letter was received complaining about similar behaviour when he was working overseas a decade earlier.

Police were not called in unlil a year later after parents of one of the boys contacted the school to report an assault

The judge told the priest he would remain on the national register of sex offenders for life.

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Power struggle plunges Newcastle into crisis

NEWCASTLE United ap peared to be in crisis last night as two directors walked out of the troubled football club after apparently losing out in a power struggle with multimillionaire businessman Sir John Hall

The departures have sparked a fresh bout of controversy at the end of what has been one of the most dismai seasons the club has ever endured.

Newcastle United pic - the holding company for the football club - announced last night that Sir Terence Harrison, a respected industrialist, was stepping down as chairman of the board. John Mayo, a senior executive at GEC, the electronics giant, has also resigned.

Sir Terence is believed to have left after clashing with Sir John, who returned from semiretirement last March following the scandal involving his son Douglas and Freddie Shepherd. The two directors resigned in shame after the News of the World newspaper caught them making derogatory remarks about the club's players and fans.

Initially, Sir John said he would only stay until 31 March. However, he has now indicated that he would like to carry on as chairman of the football club.

Sir Terence's departure is likely to spark a fresh crisis of confidence in Newcastle Unitcd in the City. On the Stock Exchange yesterday, shares in the over everything," be said, "even club, which were priced at 135p

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when the club floated last year, slipped Ip to 85.5p. All but one of the directors who were brought in when the club decided to float on the stock market have now left...

The disunity at Newcastle United can be traced back to before the turbulent season. On 7 January last year, the night Kevin Keegan cleared his personal effects from the manager's desk, it was clear that all was not well at St James' Park.

In five years as manager, with the help of Sir John's large chequebook, Keegan took the club from the brink of the old Third Division to second place, behind Manchester United, in the FA Carling Premiership. He left acrimoniously, later citing the club's preoccupation with a stock market

flotation as the reason. The flotation had taken the most important part of



Newcastle United - the team." Disgruntled supporters were initially placated by the signing of Kenny Dalglish, who piloted "the Magpies" into the European Champions' League and to the beights of a famous victory against Barcelona last Sep-

tember. Since then, however, the club has been in free-fall. The Toon Army, as Newcastle's supporters like to be known, watched the beloved cavaliers of the Keegan era metamorphose into Dalglish's unloved roundheads. Struggling to score goals, even when Alan Shearer returned after surgery, the runners-up of last season missed relegation by

have only mirrored those off it. Last January the club became a national laughing stock for protesting about having to

just four points. They also lost

the FA Cup final to Arsenal, but

Newcastle travails on the pitch



non-League club Stevenage Borough. "Is Kenny Dalglish a hig girl's blouse," Jeremy Paxman pondered on the BBC's Newsnight programme.

Then followed a fracas between Shearer and Keith Gillespie, which ended with the latter in hospital. It came as a surprise, therefore, that Shearer should be pilloried as "Mary Poppins" in the News of the World investigation that led to the resignations of Freddie Shepherd and Douglas Hall.

The scandal of the directors' scoring spree in the brothels of Europe, and the derisory remarks attributed to them was followed by uproar when Shearer escaped punishment by the Football Association after kicking the head of Leicester City's Neil Lennon in a game.

After yesterday's upheaval at St James' Park, the hewildered play an FA Cup tie away to the next blow is going to come.



fans are wondering whence the What are Newcastle fans to think? Sir John Hall (above), who returned from semi-retirement after the scandal over his son Douglas and Freddie Shepherd, is believed to have triumphed in the struggle with Sir Terence Harrison (above left)

Coming soon: the genetically engineered No warnings banana that can save Third World children of modified

Scientific developments can sometimes comes in threes. Charles Arthur reports

SOMETIMES in science, are becoming almost routine: things do not happen singly, but scarcely a day goes by without come along in threes, like hus- some announcement from a es. Earlier this week the giant company involved with genes. agribusiness company Monsanto announced that it has worked out bow to generate cotton that is naturally blue.

Meanwhile, clinical trials with people in Baltimore have shown that a genetically-engineered potato can confer resistance to "traveller's diarrhoea" caused by varieties of the E.coli bacterium. And today in the science journal Nature, a team from the University of Exeter announce that it has finally worked out how plants produce vitamin C - opening the way, it says, to genetically-engineered versions of the fruit which produce far greater

amounts of such useful vitamins. Biologists are increasingly able to map out the locations of every gene in a plant or bacterium, and they are increasingly sure what each of those genes does, and how they interact. At the more complex level of the functioning bacterium, plant or - ultimately human being, our knowledge is also advancing in leaps and bounds. So new applications, such as the three listed above,

But while gene-jeans may excite casual interest, the real focus is on altering plants so that they will become truly useful "factories" for chemicals such as vaccines; or simply making them more fertile, so that the same land area can feed the ever-expanding number of mouths in the world. Potentially, the first of those

applications could cut through many of the problem of immunisation in developing countries. Rather than having to organise widespread campaigns involving injections - with all the attendant problems of sterilisation and distribution of syringes and refrigerated vaccines - health workers would simply provide genetically-engineered crops. By eating the produce, people would immunise themselves against diseases such as hepatitis, malaria and rabies, and childhood diseases such as diph-

theria, rubella, and measles. Similarly, the Exeter team's unravelling of the "chemical pathway" by which plants make vitamin C is a key advance which ends a 40-year search.

Modified genes, now and in the future

• Flavr Savr tomato The first genetically-engineered consumer food, made by Monsanto, it has a longer shelf life because gene that promotes rotting removed

● Roundap Ready soya beans Also from Monsanto. Include a gene making them resistant to "Roundup" herbicide, so crops can be sprayed without harming them

Contains extra genes that make proteins from specific E.coli becteria that cause diarrhoea: have just ended successfully

Naturally blue cotton

Containing gene taken from blue flowers to give the cotton bolf a blue tinge before it is including genes from hamful viruses, so that the body produces antibodies to the virus

Bananas and traits containing vaccines without having to be exposed to it fully Sapervitamin truits

Oranges, lemons etc which overproduce their normal trace amounts of vitamin C, E, etc Widespread use of (cloned) farm animals such as sheep to produce pharmaceutically useful chemicals. Clinical trials of such chemicals are now underway.

EVENTUALLY : Oral vaccines from truits to replace injections

'Problotic' rice, genetically engineered to encourage helpful gut bacteria.

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Crops which produce their own herbicides when attacked by weeds and predators

people so wish, that we can genetically engineer plants to have altered vitamin C content. That has potential benefits in both nutrition and for the ability of plants to withstand various kinds of environmental stresses that would normally reduce crop yield, " said Nicholas Smirnoff, a lecturer in plant biochemistry who led the research at Exeter.

"Until we made our discovery it was essentially impossihle to do that, but now we know

"In the long run it means, if the pathway, we can identify the chief executive of Axis Genetgenes involved." Within the next year they should he able to begin experiments to genetically boost the vitamin C con-

tent of fruit and vegetables. The idea of "edible vaccines" is not limited to academia, though. It is big business. Among them is Cambridgebased Axis Genetics, which is working on a number of schemes to coar vaccines out of transgenic plants.

There are two main approaches," said Iain Cubitt,

ics yesterday. "First, engineer viruses that normally attack plants so they put proteins from disease-causing organisms on their surface, so that the plants produce a vaccine to them. Secondly, engineer the plants to make the vaccine directly. Most of that work has

The experiment with genetically-engineered potatoes, by the Boise Thompson Institute of Cornell University, New York, is one outgrowth of that.

been done in the US."

bitt. "Now, our main business is producing vaccines from

Doing that requires a threeway understanding of genes and organisms. Immunisation essentially teaches the body to watch out for particular proteins found on the "coats" of unwanted bacteria or viruses. This means that rather than injecting the whole organism, a particular protein can be identified which will serve to alert

the body of an infection. If you can work out which gene makes the required protein, then you are just one step away from your target; all you need to do is find a way for your required plant to make it, by adding the gene to the plant in such a way that it is "expressed" in the fruit, skin or other useful part.

Surprisingly, this is one area where the small start-nps - often outgrowths of academic research - have an advantage over the big pharmaceutical companies. "The big companies aren't involved yet, because I think they have been cynical about doing things with plants," said Dr Cubitt.

Similar efforts are being made with standard crops. already, just 15 crop plants provide 90 per cent of the world's food energy.

"It's taken five or six years to reach this stage," said Dr Cabitt "Name and main foods

By Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

COMPANIES that claim not to m (GM) soya in their food may be unaware that the products they are selling contain it. The BBC programme The

Big Dinner sent a food parcel picked at random to government food laboratories in Norwich which runs a commercial GM testing service. One in five of the samples tested contained GM soya. Of the 20 samples The Big

Dinner tested, 10 contained sova and of those 10, two -Bird's Eye Southern Fried Chicken Nuggets and Ross Bacon Burgers - contained senetically modified soys. Neither indicated this on the packaging.

Michael Antoniou, a clinical geneticist who has worked in the field for 20 years said: "I'm very concerned - we are all unwitting guinea pigs for the GM food experiment. In the medical field a new product would be tested on a controlled group before being made widely available. This doesn't happen with food."

The companies said that hecause soya and GM soya were

mixed in the US it was impossible to tell whether the soya contained GM material or

A spokesman for Ross said yesterday: "There is no legal requirement to label genetically modified food at the moment. We in common with other food manufacturers have sgreed a voluntary code of la-

"We are changing our products' labelling but it takes time. It is impossible because all soya coming in now contains a proportion of genetically modified material."

A spokeswoman for Bird's Eye said that the company was introducing voluntary labelling of soya protein during the course of 1998: "The entire food industry is making use of soya protein sourced from the United States 1997 harvest which because the crop is not segregated by definition means that some of the material may be derived from GM soya beans," she said.

"The new labelling is already featured on two of our products and the remaining products will carry the new GM labelling over the next few months according to our packaging renewal programme."

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Select committee summons 'fat cats'

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

THREE directors who made personal fortuoes totalling over £60m from the sale of privatised railway leasing companies have been summoned by a Commons select committee for an inquiry into the way the taxpayer was taken for a ride.

John Prideaux joined the ranks of the rail privatisation "fat cats" after making £15m from the sale of Angel Trains to the Royal Bank of Scot-

Sandy Anderson, a former BR manager, made £36m after leading the buyout of the teasing company. Porterbrook, which the managers sold to Stagecoach for more than £800m. Andrew Jukes made £15.9m from a stake of £110,000 in the sale of a third leasing company, Eversholt, objective was to privatise the rolling to Forward Trust.

All three directors have been called to appear next Wednesday by

Public Accounts Committee, which taxpayers' assets became an election

mittee, David Davis, is a former min- ment. ister and ex-trouble shooter, with a reputation for tough talking. The committee inquiry could cause embarrassment for former Tory transport ministers, Sir George Young and Sir Brian Mawhinney - both oow Shadow Cabinet - who were responsible for the self-offs.

But the permanent secretary at the Department of Transport, Andrew Turnbull, will be in the firing line over a damning report by the National Audit Office in March, this year, which said updated valuations were not made "because the then Government's overriding stock leasing companies as soon as practicable"

The row over the sale and the crethe public spending watchdog, the ation of three multi-millionaires from

is investigating the privatisation of the issue last year, with the "fat cats" conthree rolling stock leasing companies. troversy contributing to the loss of The Tory chairman of the com-

The directors will be questioned about the findings in the NAO report, which estimated that the taxpayer had received £1.8bn for companies which had a value of £2.9bn. It criticised the Department of Transport members of William Hague's for failing to include a clawback provision on profits for any resale.

The cross-party committee will also be questioning Hambros who advised the Government on the sale, Brian Souter, the head of Stagecoach Holdings and others who bought the businesses including an official of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

The NAO report said the purchasers of Eversbolt and Porterbrook were management and employee buy-out teams backed by financial institutions which aimed to realise a significant profit on invest-



The Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, standing among troops from Ukraine and Poland on a joint training exercise at Stanford Army Training Base in Norfolk yesterday

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BT%It's good to talk

Mystery of disappearing trainees

By Barrie Clement Labour Editor

> NEARLY one in eight of the young people leaving the government's flagship New Deal scheme have simply disappeared, according to official figures released yesterday.

Some may have gone to prison, others switched to alternative beoefits, become pregnant, dropped out or finally acknowledged they had been working in the black economy. Andrew Smith, employment minister, also acknowledged that an unknown oumber may have become destitute.

Publishing the first government figures since pilots of the programme began in January, Mr Smith pledged to find out where the "disappeared" had eoded up.

He conceded that the scheme so far had involved more carrot than stick. Just 35 of the 16,400 participants had been the subject of a "benefit penalty" for falling foul of the system. A further 135 cases have been referred to an independent adjudicator to decide whether the young people concerned should have 40 per cent of their state payments

More than four out of 10 of the 18- to 24-year-olds on the scheme have secured jobs without any subsidy from the taxpayer, the figures revealed.

Just over one in 10 have gone into jobs which carry a £60 a week subvention to the employer from the state.

Since those figures were compiled for 12 "pathfinder" areas betweeo January and March, the scheme has gone nationwide and another 18,000 young people who have been out of work six months or more, have joined the scheme.

Mr Smith said the initial figures should be treated with

caution, but there were early indications that the programme was "popular with young people and employers," and that it had eojoyed an encouraging start.

He pointed out that one in six of the young people on the scheme had volunteered to join early before they had been out of work for six mooths. He said 10,000 employers had signed up to provide subsidised jobs and the initiative had exceeded ex-

Figures from the pilot stage of the programme showed 12,600 participants were still on the "Gateway" induction scheme which was designed to prepare the young people for ooe of four options: subsidised employment, full time education or training, a place on the government's environment task force or a job with a voluntary organisation.

The Employment Minister conceded however that the "ultimate test" would be how the programme compared with previous schemes and that would not become clear until the full results were available at the end of the year.

Angela Browning, Employment Spokeswoman, said she had reservations about the figures and said that many of the "bard cases" were still at the Gateway stage and would coostitute the real test.

Conservatives would welcome the scheme if it provided real long term jobs for ex-offeoders, the disabled and ethnic minorities she said.

The figures released yesterday showed that 2,000 jobs had heeo created from a programme worth £12m - £6.000 for each job, she said.

Her colleague David Willetts said the statistics seemed to show that young people had done no better under New Deal than they had done before.

UK attacked over human rights policy

short of international human rights standards, Amnesty International said today.

The Government's Human Rights Bill, going through Parliament, will incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law. But the human rights pressure group Amnesty waots the Government to go much further.

"The Government needs to ensure that its own house is in order if it is to have effective influence on human rights in other countries," Amnesty's director, David Bull, said,

Amnesty produced a report today to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It stands as a challenge to the Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's claims to be following an ethical foreign policy.

The study highlights areas

THE United Kingdom falls errameot to act on eight points. It says Britain should ratify

and observe all international human rights treaties and standards and abolish the death penalty - which is still permitted, in theory, as a punishment for some crimes. The Government should

also take every opportunity to raise human rights issues with ioternational bodies such as the United Nations and European Union and ensure human rights issues are adequately reflected in foreign policies.

Inside the UK, every asylum claim should he scrutinised carefully to ensure that foreigners at risk of persecution are not forced to go home. Arms exports must be continually monitored and controlled.

The Government should also increase the openness and transparency of its human rights policies and decision-making, where the UK falls short of international standards on human of a permanent and independent rights and calls for the Gov- International Criminal Court.

Agenc drug-t

By Jakon Service

Channel 4 presenter defies criticism of programme that showed family cooking and consuming afterbirth 'to reflect rituals of other cultures'

7/NEWS

Placenta-eating film attacked by TV watchdog

Media Correspondent

A TELEVISION show which showed people cooking and eating a human placenta has been criticised by the Broadcasting Standards Commission. In a report published today,

the BSC television watchdog said that TV Dinners, the Channel 4 programme presented by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, breached a convention in a way which would have been disagreeable to many". A BSC statement added that, despite a pre-transmission warning about would eat the placenta to reflect the programme's content, it "would have taken many viewers by surprise".

Nine complainants felt the programme, which attracted 2 in their gene pool by sharing million viewers when broadcast in February, was distasteful. A few referred to the practice of programme's producers, Ricoeating placenta as cannibalism.

Mr Fearnley-Whittingstall said yesterday: "There's nothing prescriptive about TV Dinners as a series; it's a fairly lighthearted mix of cooking and social documentary, it reflects all kinds of different approaches, including people who feel the need to break a food taboo.

"If I wasn't getting a numcomplacency in the way we ap- Alternative Maternity, Nicky

proach our diet and food pro- Wesson advised new mothers to happy to be seen cating squirreis and, indeed, placenta. People need to be shocked to make them think about the issues in eating food."

placenta in the programme, any complications, there is no Mr Fearnley-Whittingstall said that it was obvious it was "a very this. It is a matter of personal meaningful thiog for them, something they really believed in and not done for shock value". The Clear family decided that, to mark their first grandchild's birth, family and friends rituals and customs from other cultures. The idea was to construct a ceremony in which the guests would symbolically join part of the baby, Indie-Mo's placenta. The family wrote to the

chet Films, for recipe advice. Consumption of the afterbirth can be traced to 1556, when a traveller to the New World reported that Indians ate the placenta immediately after giving birth. Cooking and eating placentas is widely practised among native peoples of Brazil and certain Maori tribes.

In Europe, it was reguarly ber of complaints I would coo- added to chicken broth and sider I wasn't doing my job. It served to recently delivered was one of the stories I most en- women until the mid-19th cenjoyed doing. There's a lot of tury. More receotly, in her book

duction, which is why I'm quite eat the placenta to prevent post-natal depression.

The programme's researchers also contacted the Department of Health, which issued a statement: "If a healthy Of the family who ate the woman has given birth without reason why she should not do choice.

Channel 4 did not respond to the BSC statement other than to say that it stood by the programme, as it had throughout the furore it created before



The presenter of TV Dinners, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, with the placenta dish, decorated with a model of a baby

Photograph: Channel 4

Agency backs drug-test kits

Crime Correspondent

. . .

its policy

100

A NATIONAL drugs agency yesterday defended the use of kits to test ecstasy and other il- kits are not a panacea - the legal substances after the Govenument's drug "czar" criticised drug, or what impurities are prefor them to be banned.

Keith Hellawell, the UK Drugs Co-ordinator, reacted Easy Test, which went on sale a angrily to the oews that a com- couple of months ago via mail orpany was selling the kits for as der and the Internet, has already little as £5 to people who want- sold about 2,000 at £5 each. The ed to check pills and powders kits can recognise six different before buying them.

ty and a private company - and a more accurate model. can detect several drugs, intification chart.

the kits banned "because they

But Mike Goodman, direc- drugs they are taking." tor of Release, the national a pragmatic measure and has sense" and "irresponsible".

some beoefit in reducing the amount of rogue drugs taken and allows people to have a better idea of what they taking."

However, he warned: "These don't tell you the strength of the them as "immoral" and called sent. It should be used as part of a risk reduction policy."

One of the kits, known as types of drugs, and can be used The devices are sold by at about 15 times. The Green Parleast two firms - the Green Par- ty product costs £15, or £34 for

The devices were first develcluding pure ecstasy or MDMA, oped in the Netherlands and amphetamine and a hallucino- used as a method of detecting gen called 2CB. The substances adulterated pills. Dealers freare identified by pouring a quently mix drugs such as speed chemical oo to a tiny amount of with other substances, including the drug, which changes colour baking soda or headache tablets and be compared with an iden- and try to sell them as ecstasy. Several deaths have been linked Mr Hellawell said he wanted to the mixing of unknown drugs.

Dylan Trump, who sells the give people a false sense of se- East Test kits, told the BBC Racurity. They do not make ecsta- dio 4 Today programme: "We sy or any other drug less are not encouraging people to dangerous. It seems to be an im- use the drug, merely providing moral money-making venture," more information about the

But Jan Betts, the mother of drug and legal organisation, Leah Betts who died in 1995 afdisagreed. "We believe these ter taking ecstasy on her 18th testing kits should be made birthday, said Mr Trump's available to young people. It's claims were "complete non-

Girl, 5, accuses uncle, 12, of rape

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD girl told time and then threatened the a court yesterday how she was girl's uncle that he would burn raped when she went out to play with two 12-year-old boys

on a Sanday affection.

The griff speaking through a video field with less than to see the griff how she was taken to see the griff how she was taken to see the griff of a second time. The grif said that she thought the boys were going to kill her.

Questioned by defence barries of the griff demict and another 12 year-old, mied she had been playing games in the cemetery and intook it in turns to have sex with

The girl's sacle, who is now aged 13, has admitted indecent assault. The other boy, still aged 12, denies rape.

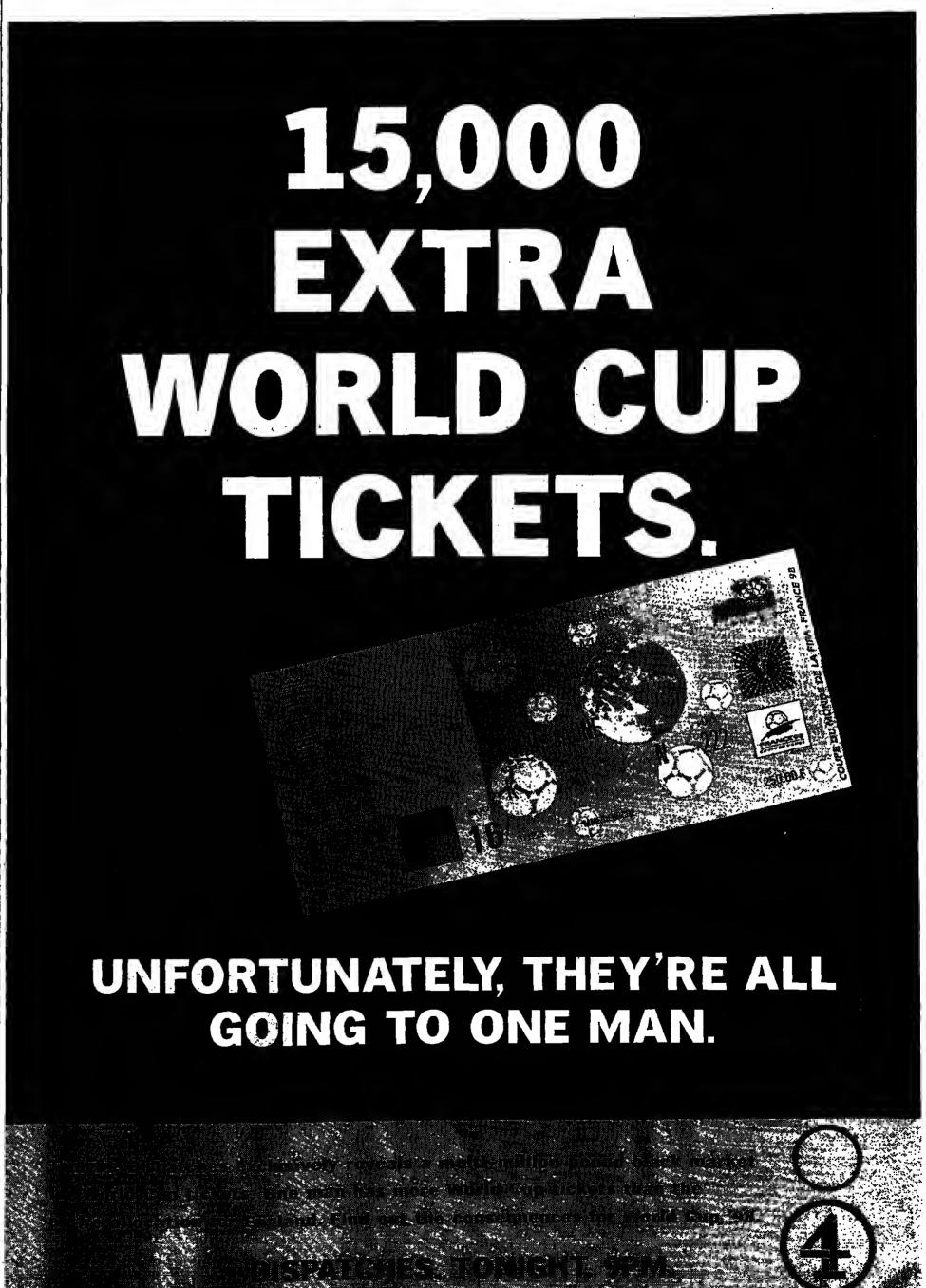
prosecution, told the jury that the girl kicked and screamed as she was raped. He said the 12year-old raped the girl the first until today.

his clothes if he did not also have sex with the girl.

games in the cemetery and insisted the boys had had sex with

The girl's uncle, giving evidence for the prosecution, said he had got on top of her Nicholas Campbell, for the - after the other boy - when he was threatened, but did not have full sex.

The case was adjourned



Are Britain's farmers right to moan?

TRACTOR dealers, feed merchants, fertiliser manufacturers, vets and a whole range of industries dependent on agriculture joined Britain's farmers yesterday in calling on the Government to act over the crisis in farm incomes, which nearly halved over the past year.

The financial slump is now threatening the whole rural economy, they warned in a "rural charter" setting out their demands for action, which they signed and sent to Tony Blair.

They urged him to move to bring down the high level of the pound on the foreign exchanges which is doing more than anything else to cut farm revenues. They are also seeking a meeting with the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, to press their case.

The leaders of 25 agricultural trade bodies and organisations allied to farming. ranging from the British Agricultural and Garden Machinery Association to the United Kingdom Agricultural Supply Association, met at the National Farmers' Union headquarters in London to highlight what they described as the "knock-on" effect on the rural economy of the farming income drop.

The falls have been substantial: over the past year, farm incomes as a whole in Britain have gone down by 45 per cent and in some sectors by even more; the 12,000 lowland cattle and sheep farmers in England have suffered a 65 per cent drop. The farm gate price of wheat fell from £121.70 per

Tony Blair is being petitioned by agricultural groups pleading poverty. Michael McCarthy reports



Farmers at Banbury cattle market, which is to close. In its heyday it was at the heart of the Oxfordshire town and credited as being Europe's largest livestock market. Photograph: John Voos

in January this year; of milk from al economy," said Ben Gill, the ter to ensure a vibrant rural econfrom £1.19 per kilo to 90p.

ing on the Government and "When the farming industry other key economic decision ber of tractors registered for road

25p to 20p per litre; and of beef NFU's president. "We are call- only for future generations."

riod the previous year. Agricul-The NFU said that the numtural investment is forecast to fall is burting, so is the rest of the rur- makers to act on the rural char- use in the UK in the first four by 37 per cent this year, and a

yealed business confidence at its

months of 1998 fell by 47 per survey of of leaders from in- ham, the Minister of Agriculcent compared with the same pe-dustries allied to farming re-ture, yesterday denied that the rural economy as a whole was lowest level in living memory. suffering. "I accept that some provides sufficient safeguards

very difficult time for the last couple of years, particularly in the livestock sector," be said

"Overall, farm incomes have beeo in decline for almost two decades, apart from a small and temporary arrest in the early 1990s. But I don't accept that everyone in the countryside is getting very much poorer That's not the case. Rural un employment fell in the last 132 months by 4 per cent."

The health and strength of the rural economy "must go way. beyond farming", he said, which was why the Government was focusing oo issues such as rural transport, applying health action zones and the New Deal for the unemployed to rural areas, and concentrating European Union funds on rural enterprises.

Ironically, the new protest from the farmers and their supplying industries came on a day with some long-awaited good news: the first lifting of the EU beef ban prompted by the BSE scare. Exports of beef from Ulster, which comes from "guaranteed" BSE-free herds, can resume from next week, the European Commission said.

The restoration of trade comes more than two years after the mad cow scare prompted the Commission to impose a world-wide export blockade the rest of the UK's beef export market remains closed for the time being. Ulster has been cleared because it has a computerised cattle monitoring system which Brussels says

Royal A goes o limb to

Elmprice tag on Gormley Work

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'I see no investment in the land' The pressure is unbelievable'

A SHARP decline in Donald of £28,500 in the financial year day wheo we were having good wants to build for his sons' fu-Arscott's fortunes in the past two years has cast a dark shadow over his family's future in to £5,021. He will be lucky if he their farms to build for the 12 months and I can see on inagriculture, writes Linns has broken even in the last 12 future. Gregoriadis.

scott, who owns a 125-acre lowland farm in Devon, has seen his good times and bad times in profits virtually disappear be- farming, but I have ocver seen them." cause of BSE scares and the them like they are now," he strength of the pound.

His dairy and beef farm, near Honitoo io the Black- diabolical. People say to us that ably for the rest of his life in the ban lifted then things should down Hills, made a net profit we should have saved for a rainy worst case scenario, says he start to get better," he said.

ending May 1996, but in the following year his profit margin fell mooths, "My 79-year-old moth-Like many farmers, Mr Ar- er, who was born on this farm, said to me recently, 'I have seen

"The situation for farmers is

that. They invest their money in

"Standing on my farm I can see half a dozen farms in a similar situation. I can't see any investment going on in any of

Mr Arscott, a 52-year-old grandfather, who admits he could sell up and live comfort-

times, but farmers doo't do ture. There has been no investment in the farm in the last vestment in the next 12 months. When you are in this business you look to expand all the time, especially when you have two

> Mr Arscott believes there is hope, bowever. "I think that if the pound comes down to a sensible level and we get the beef

THE MOST recent setbacks in owing from Christmas because who rears animals before sell- of lamb is the lowest for 6 or 7 the industry's fortunes have made life worse for William Jenkins, a Welsh hill farmer who

Union subsidies and the de- to go through these last few mand for his animals falls.

Mr Jenkins, who grazes sheep, cows, calves and borses on 160 leased acres in Blackwood, Monmouthshire, said: "The stress has been unbelievable. We have bills in our house

we haven't got the money." Mr Jenkins, 48, says he

would not want his three daughhas made no profit for six years.

His quality of life continues wanted to be a farmer, but I to slip as the value of European would never want my children years. The pressure has been unbelievable. My wife now works in a school, then does farm work followed by housework. She doesn't do it to take us on holiday to Florida. She works to en-

ing them to lowland farmers. says combined circumstances have wrecked his livelihood.

"Since 1992 our EU subsidy for living and working in the hills has been eroded. Our ewe premiums have also fallen because, although the price of our lambs has dropped in the market, the average cost of lamb across Europe has gone up.

Because beef prices are the lowest they have been for able me to farm." Mr Jenkins, the last 15 years, and the price

years, lowland farmers haven't got the money to buy."

Closure of auction houses through lack of business "would be a disaster because, without competition, the supermarkets would have a monopoly".

Mr Jenkins added: "People say, why should farmers have a subsidy?' If I can't sell an animal in the market I still have to feed it. I'm losing more money all the time. It's different from any other industry."



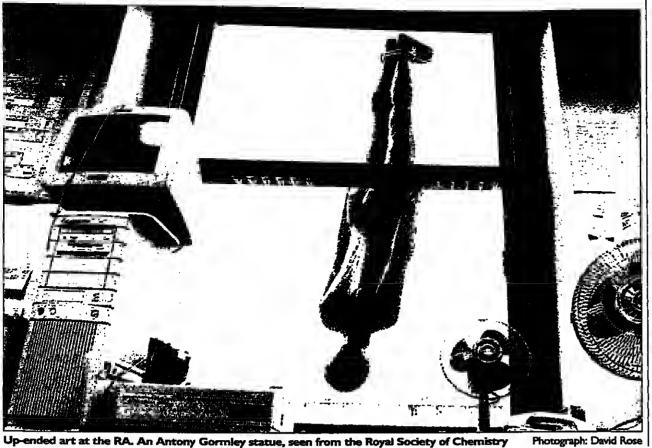
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Euro rules threaten art market profits

Political Editor

THE multi-million pound London art market is at real risk of being broken up by a new Brussels "tax", both the Government aod MPs said yesterday.

In spite of protests by British ministers - Labour as well as Tory - and the European Parliament, the Commission is oushing ahead with plans to imoose an artists' levy of up to 4 per ceot on the resale of any work of art from next January.

It is expected that the proposal could drive force sales of more than £370m oot of Loo- of the move getting his vote. don - driving art owners off to auctioneers and dealers into levy-free havens like New York

The levy would apply to the work any artist who is an EU national, or the national of member state who has been dead for York - and other third-country

covers work by artists ranging from Picasso, Matisse and Chagal through to Lucian Freud.

But a report from the Commons European Legislation Committee warned yesterday: The Government appears to be short of allies amongst the other member states in its opposition to this proposal."

Marking their disapproval of the legislative process, the all-party committee put down a protest marker, blocking British ministerial agreement. Ian McCartney, the industry minister, indicated, however, that there was no risk

"The amended proposal makes oo concession to UK concerns that the proposal would damage the competitiveness of London's international art market in relation to its main competitor - New

less than 70 years. It therefore markets," he told the MPs. It has been estimated that the levy would slash the earnings of London auctioneers and dealers by up to £68m a year, with the potential loss of about 5,000 jobs, and only £2m going to British artists or their heirs.

"Moreover." Mr McCartney added, "experience abroad shows that the majority of artists would get little, if anything, Royalties would go mainly to wellknown artists or, more likely, to their beirs. The costs of the proposal in terms of damaging Community art markets would considerably outweigh the ben-

efits to individual artists." The European Parliament attempted to soften the blow by suggesting new price bands, lower royalty rates, and royalties that would apply only to selling price - but all those

chairman of the British Art Market Federation, told The Independent last night: "What we are saddled with is an internal market measure which is seeking to create a level playing field within Europe, while ignoring the global market in which we

have to compete." The move was completely illogical, be said. If it was argued that the Germans were at a disadvantage compared with Londoo because they had the levy, the same disadvantage would apply to London compared with New York, when the levy was applied to London.

Mr Browne said: "The market will move and that is a shame because it is something we are very good at in this country." If Brussels wanted a level playing field, he added, it would be much simpler to abolish the levy in other EU countries.

Royal Academy goes out on a limb to attract young audience

TODAY is not only the start of shall go on campaigning to get the season for Middle Eng- him sacked," There were even land's painters. It is also the start reports of a fist fight between of a cultural rehabilitation for two of the Academy's most se-Britain's oldest art institution.

When the Royal Academy opens its doors in Picadilly for the first private view of the annual Summer Show, Sir Philip Dowson, the president, and David Gordon, the secretary, will be able to greet friends and sponsors, press and critics with beaming smiles and promises of a cutting-edge future.

The institution is moving back into the black after mounting dehts. Craigie Aitchison, the artist who resigned as an RA petition for the declining pot of in high dudgeon last year, has come back to the fold. "Sensation", the exhibition of radical young British artists, attracted huge crowds. The latest elections to the academy show a spirited attempt to emhrace the new. One new RA, David Mach. predicts "raunchy" times ahead.

Six months is evidently a long time in art. Last autumn, the Royal Academy was in crisis: the culmination of 12 months during which its bursar bad been

£1 m price tag on Gormley work

A CENTREPIECE of the Summer Exhibition will be a sculpture by Autony Gormley, who has valued it at £1m, writes David Lister.

Critical Mass comprises 60 lifesize cast-iron figures each weighing a tonne. The body casts are in the centre and around the outsides of the courtyard of the Royal Academy. They were moulded from Gormley's body in 12 distinct positions. Fourteen of the casts are suspended from the facade of Burlington House and neighbouring

buildings. Hitherto the highest price commanded at auction by the former Turner Prize winner is £23,000. He sold maquettes of his Angel of the North for £145,000 at the London Art Fair in January.

sent to prison for embezzlement of £400,000 as the deficit climbed to £3m. Four academicians resigned over "Sensation" and there was not exactly a rush to take their place.

Rachel Whiteread, who represented Britain at the Venice Biennale, was elected to the academy, but turned it down. Damien Hirst added that he would never join such a "pompous and boring" organisation. There were pickets outside the "Sensation" exhibition in protest over a depiction on the walls of Myra Hindley, the Moors Murderer.

Norman Rosenthal, the exhibitions organiser, was censured by a meeting of the Academicians. He said publicly he doubted that one of the resignees, John Ward, would be judged "a great artist". Mr Ward said: "I want his balls. I the improving balance sheets.

nior officials.

Imprisonment, fisticuffs and a threatened castration: it was not what Sir Joshua Reynolds had in mind 230 years ago when he established the art world's most senior body.

Last year's crisis at one stage looked like destroying the relatively new regime under Sir Philip Dowson, the architect, and David Gordon, the former ITN chief executive. The fault was not entirely theirs. Comsponsorship cash has grown ever more intense.

With no permanent collection of its own to lend, the Academy needs all Mr Rosenthal's celehrated network of contacts to secure the best exhibitions.

The academy's membership is indeed ageing and many of the 80-strong membership could not understand why the Academy was hosting an exhibition of young Turks brought in from the Saatchi collection instead of honouring its own.

The annual report shows that last year the Academy cut its accumulated deficit to £1.8m. returning an unexpected operating surplus of £175,000. Sir Philip adds that plans for the future included a £100,000 feasihility study into taking over the nearby vacated Museum of Mankind, and turning it into an educational centre.

The election of David Mach, 42, a controversial sculptor responsible for a £760,000 locomotive made of house bricks, is a clear signal from the academy that it wants to emhrace change, as do the elections of two other artists in their forties, Richard Deacon, a sculptor, and Stephen Farthing, the head of the Ruskin School of Drawing. at Oxford.

Mr Mach says: "For me, it's got to get rid of its conservative reputation. If we can chip away at that it's going to be quite a raunchy place. I don't see why it has to be stuffy. They have to go for young people. You have to get younger sooner or later. It's obvious because the rest of them are going to die."

That is logic of a sort. The academy's quest for youtb. hlockbusters and sbarper business acumen also has a sort of logic to it. But it remains a short-term solution. The academy, which makes no pronouncements about the state of art, and whose own school bas lost its pre-eminent place in art education, has yet to find a role and purpose in today's mercurial art world - a world which does not respect authority and tradition and, as Damien Hirst's remarks showed, does not want to be a member of an exclusive cluh with no power and little anthority.

The present regime has not yet made a statement of changing philosophy to accompany



Firefighters reach for water guns

WATER guns instead of unwieldy boses are being used by firefighters for the first time in Britain in a pilot scheme in West Yorkshire.

Firefighters at Leeds yesterday demonstrated how the guns could be used to put out a hlazing car (pictured), and said that they would be particularly useful in areas where it was difficult to run hoses because of distance from a water supply.

The water guns, which are made in Holland, are carried on the officer's back and run oo compressed air, firing blasts of water from a 10-litre pack. They are said to work most effectively when used in pairs with the jets aimed at the base of a fire.

If the West Yorkshire trials are successful, the water guns, which cost £2,500 each, will be used by fire brigades across the country.

Photograph: Peter Byrne/Guzel





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Japanese cars pose greater injury risk

Transport Correspondent

OCCUPANTS of some of the best-selling Far Eastern hatchback cars face an "unacceptably" high risk of serious injury in accidents, according to the results of official European crash protection tests.

Popular Japanese car marques Honda, Suzuki and their Korean counterparts Daewoo and Hyundai were all cited as manufacturers that oeeded to "improve safety standards".

Twelve models were ammed into deformable walls to simulate crash conditions part of the European New Car Assessment Programme (Euro NCAP) - at the Transport Research Laboratory.

European car-makers topped the safety tables. The Audi A3, Renault Megane and the VW Golf achieved the maximum four stars in the tests. Experts said these car-makers had the advantage of oewer models -while many of the Far Eastern makes were based oo older

This argument was used to explain the poor performance of the £17,000 Honda Civic. According to a spokesman for Honda, the model has been designed in 1992. "The Civic is in the second half of its working life - it is unfair to compare it with brand new cars," said a

Others chose to question the legitimacy of the tests themselves. "These tests do have to be seen for what they are. They are not real life situations," said a spokesman for Daewoo, take safety more seriously."

whose £11,000 Lanos failed because the driver faced "an unacceptably high risk of chest

this week's Autocar magazine, Professor Adrian Hobbs, chairman of the Euro NCAP technical working group, defended the tests.

Professor Hobbs said while the tests could oot represent every type of accident, they did represent the most important

He also denied a suggestion that advice from car companies had been ignored. He went on: We had a meeting in July 1996 with the industry, which was a technical meeting. It was not very helpful because the industry basically came along to tell us why we shouldn't do an NCAP programme."

The real test for many manufacturers will come this Octo-. ber - when new models face tough new standards for side impact collisions.

Even the best performers were far from perfect. The Consumers' Associatioo said the Audi A3 - although one of the highest scorers and with a very stable body shell - still had room for improvement in the frontal impact knee injury area. "Car manufacturers have a

long way to go to improve safety standards," said Andrew McIlwraith, editor of the CA's Which? Car magazine.

He added: "Although we've witoessed eocouraging improvements in car safety design. we hope these widely publicised tests will force manufacturers to

RAC ex-members try carpetbagging

Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Club have tried to rejoin since it announced the sale of its roadside rescue service. Full members will get a payout of about £30,000 wheo the sale goes ahead later this year to the US company Cendant.

The ex-members say they should be able to rejoin because the RAC has a provisioo in its rules giving automatic readmissioo for those who reapply within three years of resigning. But yesterday the RAC said only those with full membership and rium to prevent carpetbagging, would be eligible for the windfall. While the cluh would wel- is expected to be a High Court come back former members, they would oot be eligible for the ousted chairman, will seek the payout, a spokesman said.

For those who have resigned their membership, what the rules actually say is that if you wish to rejoin within three years you may do so without undergoing the formalities of the election procedure such as being cominated by two existing members. It doesn't mean you are automatically a member:

you still have to reapply." Only the 12,000 full members of the RAC, once known as the Vatican of motordom wi bers of the Royal Automobile from the Cendant sale. They include the Tory MPs Shaun Woodward and Peter Luff and the president of the Liberal Democrats, Robert Maciennan. Others set to receive the bonuses are the designer Paul Smith and former Formula One champion Damon Hill.

Under its two-tier membership structure the 6 million "members" of the rescue service, who cootribute the bulk of RAC profits, will not benefit and need not be consulted.

Overseas members are also voling rights oo 27 March, excluded from the payout and when they imposed a morato- have threatened legal action to force the RAC to extend payments to them. Next week there hearing at which Jeffrey Rose, an extraordinary general meeting, which the board of directors opposes.

(4)

Lis

The Automobile Association said disgruntled RAC members were turning to it, with figures up 50 per ceot. Since launching an advertising campaign two weeks ago it had received 4,200 calls from RAC

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The first pictures produced by a giant telescope have

stunned astronomers, writes Charles Arthur

A TECHNOLOGY developed for Ronald Reagan's Star Wars missile defence system has delivered astonishing results in its first practical use - in the world's

higgest ground-based telescope. The European Southern Observatory (ESO) yesterday released the first images from its £374m Very Large Telescope (VLT) project, which will use an array of four telescopes each 8.2m (27ft) across to produce images of distant stars and perhaps their planets.

Among the first images is a stunning picture of the Butterfly Nehula, the remnants of a huge star that has blown off much of its hydrogen "fuel" in glowing gas clouds, while the original star has shruok to a "white dwarf" in the ceotre of the picture. The details available, from three exposures each lasting 10 minutes, is as good as any from previous telescopes.

But this is only the beginning. Wheo completed in around 2001, the VLT will consist of four ideotical telescopes, and be capable of resolving objects so tiny that it is like picking out an astronaut on the surface of the Moon, 400,000km (250,000 miles) away.

The key to its powers of resolution will be that the optical signals from the mirrors of the four telescopes will be comhined, so that they function like a single mirror 16m across. That is higger than any huilt oo Earth and much larger than that on the orbiting Hubble Space Telescope – and thus gives rise to its extraordinary resolution.

The ESO team have farsighted goals for it. One possibility is to capture images of per cent of its present age. giant planets that, scientists. are increasingly sure, orbit distant stars in our galaxy.

Riccardo Giacconi, directorgeneral of the ESO, said before the first results appeared that

nembers

:bagging

The Butterily Nebula, pictured by the VLT(source: ESO) and (inset) the first of four telescopes comprising the VLT

What you would see with.

shed light on how likely it is that they can be based on the life exists in the universe". Another aim is to look at light from stars formed when the universe Hubble telescope. was very young - perhaps just 5

The Star Wars technology was originally developed by American military engineers to allow laser weapons to keep their beam steady on a missile "target". Now its use in the mir-

conditions for the emergence of ground rather than having to go to the expense of putting them into orbit, as with Nasa's

The most powerful telescope in the world

Normally, ground-based telescopes have problems because gravity makes their mirrors sag, and they also have to compensate for the effects of the atmosphere, where air layers make images tremble (making the stars appear to twinkle).

ing tiny motors which can individually move elements of the mirror. A computer monitors the reflection of a reference star in some part of the sceee in different parts of the main mirror: if that seems to shift, the motor moves a part of the mirror so that the image remains stable. The same system is also

atmospheric problems by building the VLT oo the summit of the Cerro Paranal mountain in

The UK does not belong to ESO, and has not been involved in the VLT's construction over the past 10 years. But nonmember countries can particused to compensate for the ipate, and individual astronomers can submit requests large-telescope project." sagging of the mirror under its for telescope time. The As- A "sunquake" 40,000 times The ESO has also minimised tronomer Royal, Sir Martyn more powerful than the earth-

Rees, of Cambridge University, thinks UK involvement in Gemini - a twin-telescope project, the Atacama desert, Chile, one with 8m telescopes in Chile and of the driest places on Earth. Hawaii - makes up for it. "It is a pity the UK does not have a larger stake in next-generation telescopes. But I am not sure whether the British community would wish to be involved in the VLT rather than in an other

quake which devastated San Francisco in 1906 has been observed, it was disclosed yesterday. It was first proof that solar flares produce seismic waves in the Sun's interior similar to terrestrial earthquakes.

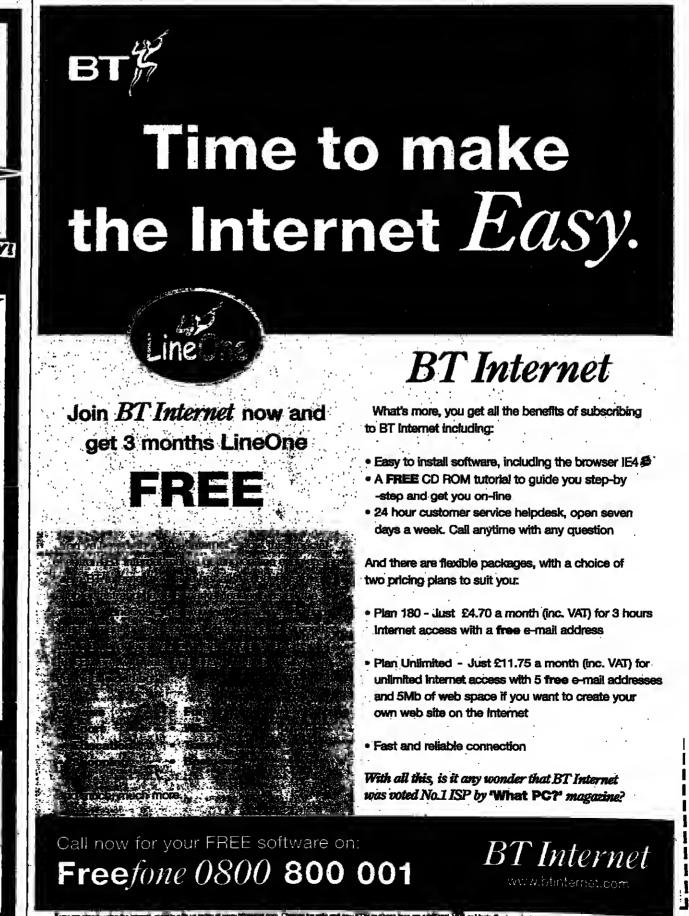
However, a quake on the Sun is on a different scale from any on Earth. The one spotted by the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory spacecraft produced waves nearly two miles high, travelling at 250,000mph

over the Sun's surface. The quake, following a moderatesized solar flare on in July 1996, appeared like ripples spreading from a rock dropped into a pool of water.

The findings were reported in the Nature science journal by researchers from Glasgow University and Stanford University, California, and presented at a news conference at the spring meeting of the American Geophysical Union in Boston.

Quote ref Indy?





Young stroke victims ignored because of age

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

MORE than 1,000 people Britain every year, and medical experts warned yesterday that elderly. many young sufferers do not get the help they need.

Edinburgh dispelled the myth elderly, revealing that 10,000 trauma they have endured. people of working age suffer strokes each year

Yesterday, a charity for young stroke survivors, Different tion to be given to their needs.

Donal O'Kelly, the director, been ignored. Many young survivors do not receive full supbecause stroke is perceived to be a problem of the elderly. We by teaching them to talk, walk and live a normal life."

It is four years since Amanda Crawford had her stroke and things and burst into the bath- what you want to hear."

mom. He took one look and rushed her to hospital.

thousands of young people ulties, including the capacity to under 30 die from strokes in struck down by the condition run, hut she is still improving. that is thought to affect only the

Research presented to the huge problems. Some have to vivors have this problem. Soci-European Stroke Conference in cope with a permanent physical disability and all have to live that the disease affects only the with the emotional scars of the

Ms Crawford, who is Canato, has no memory of her first two days in hospital. She was un-Strokes, called for more attenable to speak or walk and her left side was paralysed. "For a long time I didn't even know I had said: "This is a problem that has had a stroke. All the doctors the first time. After one year, could say was - you're so young."

She had a brain scan and was port from the health services given clot busting drugs. After 10 days she was discharged and spent three months in a rehahelp some of these people who were in the prime of their lives bilitation hostel. When she returned home she decided she needed a fresh start and moved to England.

"My sister and I had been planning to open a coffee shop. she is still only 30. She went to We had been looking at prop- and she did not smoke - but it bed with a headache and a erties and then this happened. increases the risk of a second. blood clot started to close off a I had been waiting to start my vital artery in her brain while she life. In hospital, the physiowas asleep. She got up feeling therapists told me I could learn groggy and groped her way to to hobble but I would never be and that there is no smoking and the shower. Her father heard ahle to run for the bus again. her dropping and breaking When you are 26 that is not

With a combination of determination and expert help Ms Crawford became one of she has recovered all her fac-

"To look at me you wouldn't know there was anything wrong For those who survive, re- but the emotional scars are building their lives presents still there. A lot of stroke surcty says they look fine but the experience is devastating."

She had connections in London so that was where she chose to begin her new life. She dian and was treated in Toron- now works for Different Strokes as regional development officer, setting up self-help groups around the country.

Each year over 120,000 people in the UK have a stroke for one third will have died, one third will have a serious disability and one third will recover.

Ms Crawford was one of the lucky ones. But she lives with the fear of a second stroke. Doctors had no explanation of why the first occurred - she was not on the contraceptive pill which has been linked with blood clots, she was not overweight

"I have my blood pressure checked every six months, I make sure I stay fit and healthy no excessive drinking. I do worry but I don't let it interfere with



Amanda Crawford: 'To look at me you wouldn't know there was anything wrong but the emotional scars are still there'





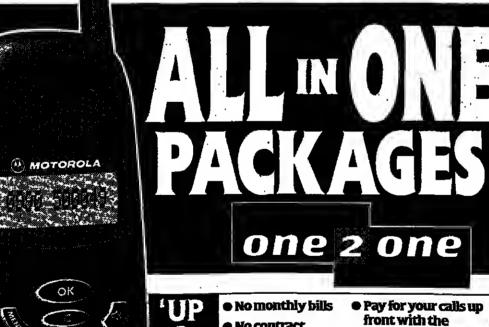
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Jail for man who took current from lamppost

A SCRAP dealer was jailed yes- considerable risk. Tordoff said and husiness. Ian Tordoff, 44, of Wakefield,

West Yorkshire, who denied using electricity illegally between 1 June 1996 and 21 March 1997 and damaging property belonging to Yorkshire Electricity, was sentenced to four months made to the lamppost had put at Leeds Crown Court follow- others at serious risk. ing a four-day trial.

told the court an illegal conoection was found at the base offence. of a lamppost outside Tordoff's nto the premises.

terday after being found guilty he had no knowledge of the ilof diverting electricity from a legal connection and claimed he lamppost to supply his house used generators to power the home he had lived at for eight Passing sentence, Assistant

Recorder Jennifer Kershaw QC, told Tordoff that stealing electricity was a serious offence and the connection he had Tordoff also received a three-

Yunus Valli, prosecuting, month jail sentence, to run concurrently, for the damage Scott Wilson, defending, said

property with a cable leading his client was a hard-working man seeking to provide for his Engineers from Yorkshire family. He said less than £1,000-Electricity said that whoever had worth of electricity was inconnected the electricity supply volved. No order for to the lamppost had taken a compeosation was made.

DAILY POEM

An Unlove Poem

By Julie Whithy

Not sure I want you anymore. In my mouth, stale dry taste of cigarette, in my head, unspoken memories of one-night stands, chipped cups and broken promises. Not sure about you anymore. The jilted lay-bys littered with condoms and English badly spoken: the cities noisy, greasy with preposterous Pizza Parlours and not one, spiralling mistily, cathedral Oh where has gone my queenly lawn and roses perfumed plangent with - desire? Liar. Don't want you anymore falls slyly as the weather.

Défense de cracher au dehors.

Hate you, from now on.

This poem comes from the latest issue of Ambit magazine, edited by Martin Bax and featuring its usual rich mixture of poetry, prose, art and reviews. Ambit 152 costs £6 (or £22 for a year's subscription) from 17 Priory Gardens. London N6 5QY.





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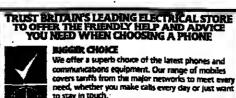
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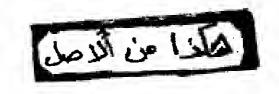
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The West's poisonous legacy

In Britain, depleted uranium is treated. as a hazard. In Iraq. it still lies in the soil. By Robert Fisk

ACROSS the sands of southern Iraq, the residue of Allied depleted uranium (DU) shells lies notreated in the soil. But io Britain, the Government goes to ecormous lengths to protect its people from the results of test firing the very weapons suspected of causing an increase in cancers among Iraqi childreo.

A Government document. published almost six mooths ago but virtually ignored, reveals that test-firing of DU shells in Britain is carried out into an open-sided coocrete huilding called the "tunnel" and that radioactive residues are washed off, sealed in cement and transported to Cumhria for disposal.

Iraqi doctors have loog suspected that the children suffering from a four-fold increase in cancer in the south of the country - revealed in The Independent on 4 March - cootracted their sickness from the Allied use of depleted uranium shells in the 1991 war, Tens of thousands of these projectiles were fired at the Iraqis in February 1991 in the fields south of the city of Basra, the fertile lands from which millions of Iragis acquire their food. Many of the childreo dying of leukemia and lymphoma cancer were not even and Families' Associatioo says contamination. born wheo the war took place.

There has been no attempt by the US or Britain to find out the cause of the cancer outbreaks in Iraq, though US veteraos' groups suspect DU and management practices, shells, made of hard alloys published by the Department of which are tougher than tungsteo and which ignite inside armoured vehicles, are responsible for thousands of cases of "Gulf War Syndrome" (includtog lymphoma cancers) among American soldiers who fought in the war. The US National Gulf Resource Ceotre says 40,000 US servicemen may have beeo exposed to depleted ura-



When Saddam's retreating forces ignited the Kuwaiti oilfields, there was a very visible environmental catastrophe. Now, a hidden poison is making its effect felt. Photograph: john Voos

nium dust on the hattlefields. Tony Flint, acting chairmao of the British Gulf War Veterans' the same shells could he responsible for the death of 30 British veterans.

A review of the Ministry of Defence's radioactive waste the Environment in December last year, however, shows governmeot specialists here take the risk of cootamination more seriously than imagined. According to the report by the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee, depleted uranium shells tested at the range at Eskmeals, on the Cum-

cial tunnel fitted with a filtered extract system and pressure-washed with water to avoid "The washings are trans-

ferred to collecting tanks for eventual disposal in cemented drums to Drigg," the report says, If the DU shell is fixed into armour plate, then the plate itself is sent to Drigg for disposal. So concerned are the British authorities about health hazards from DU shells that an oo-site health physics laboratory exists to monitor the workforce oo the Eskmeals firing range. The Department of the Environment report says firings involving uranium have been going on at the range since 1981, and "just

weight of the shells has been recovered". On 1991 Gulf War hattlefields, not a single attempt was made to recover cootaminated residues.

The Eskmeals range possesses seven high-volume air samplers and 1,000 samples nium waste also occurs at the are takeo annually. A special sampler operates to check what the document calls "the critical group within the public [sic] ... ideotified as those living in Monk Moors". Depleted uranium shells are also test-fired at Kirkcudbright in Scotland where 1.5 tonnes of the projectiles are targeted every year into the Solway Firth. The round burns, scattering rashells, the report says alarmingly, "remain oo the sea bed dust in and around the target. brian coast, are fired into a spe- over 90 per cent of the total where they will corrode with

time to form an insoluble sludge composed of hydrated uranium oxide ... Unsuccessful attempts were made in 1993 to recover some of these shells in order to assess their corrosion state," A small amount of depleted ura-Defeoce Evaluation and Research Agency's site at Fort Halstead in Keot disposed of, like the contamination at Eskmeals. to Drigg in Cumbria.

According to another American Gulf veterans' association, Swords to Plowshares, when a depleted uranium shell strikes armour, up to 70 per cent of the dioactive and chemically toxic . The group quotes a US army

HARVEST

report as stating that "aerosol DU exposures to soldiers on the battlefield could be significant with potential radiological and toxicological effects ... shortterm effects of high doses can result in death, while loog-term effects of low doses have been implicated in cancer". A 1993 US General Accounting Office report stated that American soldiers of the 144th Supply Company of the National Guard were never told of radiatioo hazards when ordered to recover US military vehicles in

Western evidence is, thus, beginning to bear out the claim by Iraqi doctors that the residues sufferers, or Gulf War veterans. turbing justice," Mr Juppé said.

the Gulf that were the victim of

"friendly fire" attacks using de-

pleted uranium projectiles:

of Allied DU shells may be a grave health hazard on the Gulf War hattlefields. Almost all farm produce consumed by resideots of Basra is grown in lands in which thousands of depleted uranium shells were fired. When The Independent visited the area in Fehruary, local farmers complained of high levels of cancer in their families. The effective oess of armour-

piercing ammunition principally depeods oo its density of the material from which is it manufactured, and the British government report says depleted uranium shows "significant performance advantages over other metals". Which is oot litical and media pressure much comfort to Iraqi cancer

Chirac denies crisis unit

PARIS (Reuters) — French President Jacques Chirac's nffice took the unusual step yesterday of denying a report that it had set up a "crisis unit" to try to block corruption probes into his Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR) party

The presideocy categorically denies all the allegations concerning it which were published today as the main headline io the newspaper Le Monde." an Elysée Palace statement said.

"No such crisis unit exists at the presidency which regrets that the newspaper Le Monde did not deem it necessary to verify its story before publication." said the statement which was issued within an hour of the daily hitting the oews stands.

Le Monde wrote that the purported unit included Dominique de Villepin, the powerful Elysée secretary-general, and other senior figures including a magistrate assigned as Chirac's legal adviser.

A series of potentially explosive judicial probes is currently under way into practices at Paris city hall during Chirac's tenure as mayor of the capital hetweeo 1977 and his election as president in 1995.

Legal sources say magistrates are probing allegations that the municipality then had on its payroll between 150 and 300 people, many of them RPR operatives with no municipal role.

The former Gaullist prime mioister, Alaio Juppé, was Chirac's deputy mayor in charge of the capital's finances from 1983 to 1995 while simultaneously serving as RPR secretarygeoeral for much of that period.

Le Monde said Chirac's advisers feared Mr Juppé would sooo be put under official iovestigation in the probe. The paper quoted an RPR politician as saying Chirac's crisis unit was specifically aimed at protecting Mr Juppé.

The former premier later released a statement condemning the article. "It is evidence of poaimed at influencing and dis-



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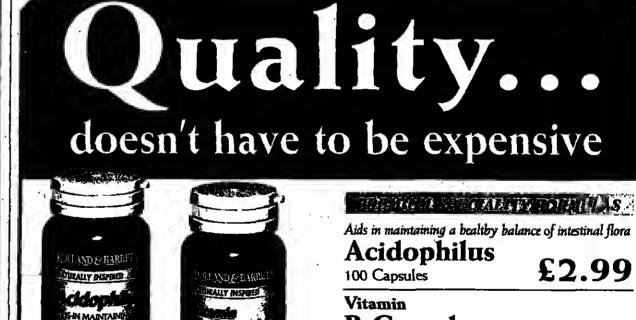
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Jewish extremists' shacks plunge Jerusalem's old city into turmoil

By Deborah Horan in Jerusalem

SEVEN tin shacks, one partially demolished, stood on a sandy plot of land inside Jerusalem's Old City yesterday, while two compromise that would allow dozen members of an extremist Jewish organisation waited to stay at the site. to hear whether the authorities would allow them to stay.

Jerusalem's mayor. Ehnd Olmert, had given the Ateret and the Cohanim when its mem-Cohanim, a secretive organisation dedicated to huying Arah property in the Old City and east Jerusalem, 24 hours to tear down the shacks. They were put up illegally on Monday night to protest against the murders of two Cohanim members, allegedly by Arah nationalists.

We wanted to give a Zionist response," said group spokeswoman Klila Harnoy.
"We decided the only way left to show how we are fighting for Jerusalem and its unity is to huild and that's why we went to this area."

By mid-afternoon, Hanan

that is part of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government coalition, had spoken with Mr Olmert to negotiate a some of the Cohanim members

Talk of a compromise smacked of a similar settlement made between the government bers took over a house in the Palestinian neighbourhood of Ras el-Amud last year. After days of confrontation with Palestinians and left-wing Israelis, a deal was reached that allowed 10 students from the organisation to stay at the site.

Palestinians fear a similar compromise will be reached this time, provoking more violence. On Tuesday, a demonstration against the shacks flared into violence when about 20 members of the Palestinian legislative council rushed from Ramallah to Jerusalem to protest against what they called

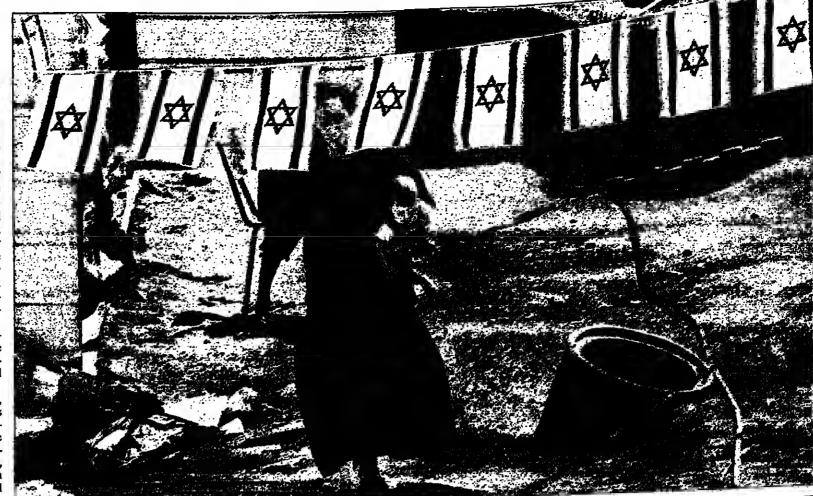
Porat of the National Religious a "new settlement" on the plot. Party, a pro-settlement party By Wednesday, the violence had subsided, but Palestinians vowed to keep up the protests.

The row in the Old City erupted as Newt Gingrich, the American Speaker, was concluding a four-day tour of Israel during which he riled President Clinton's Administration by challenging US policy on the Middle East. On Tuesday, he told Israel's Knesset that Jerusalem should remain united under exclusive Israeli sov-

ereignty.

Mr Gingrich tried to downplay differences with the White House, but his trip here has sig-nalled anything but a unified American voice.

While Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, has been pressuring Israel to withdraw from 13 per cent of the West Bank, Mr Gingrich, echo-ing most of the US Congress, has repeatedly said that when it comes to "security", Israel must be allowed to make deci-

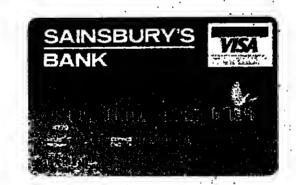


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FO acts to rescue UK deals in Indonesia

By Richard Lloyd Parry in Jakarta

THE FOREIGN Office minister. Derek Fatchett, flew into Jakarta last night amid growing tension over the cancellation of a lucrative business contract involving Thames Water and the family of former president,

Mr Fatchett will today hecome the first foreign government minister to meet with the country's new president, BJ Habibie, who took over the leadership after the sudden resignation of President Suhar- I would like to see more [conto a week ago. But his visit, as tracts cancelled]." the personal emissary of Tony Blair, risks heing overshadowed by the row over Thames Water, for the last three decades, busiwhich recently lost its contract to supply water to half of Jakarta in a joint venture with Sigit Hardjojudanto, eldest son of the

disgraced dictator. Last Saturday, the Jakarta city authorities suspended the deal - said to be worth £225m - claiming that it was awarded because of nepotism after the cancellation of a competitive tender. Today Mr Fatchett will raise the matter with the Indonesian government, amid fears that dozens of other British projects involving the Suharto clan will be jcopardised by the current hacklash against the corruption of the former first family.

The nationwide wave of revolt against Mr Suharto, which led to demonstrations, deadly riots and finally forced his resignation, has transformed itself into a growing determination to dismantle the extensive business networks which his family built up during his 32-two year reign.

The new energy minister is carrying out an investigation into the Suhartos' domination of Indonesia's huge oil and gas industry. A similar examination

is being made of the family's links with Indonesian co-operatives. The investment minister in Mr Hahibie's so-called "reform cabinet" has announced a review of tax breaks granted to relatives and cronies of the forGerman

nuclear

scandal

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mer president. "It will take some time to eliminate corruption and collusion," said HS Dillon, an adviser to the government, yesterday after a meeting with the investment minister, Hamzah Haz. "But whatever can be demonstrated to the public will serve to boost up morale.

The problem for foreign businessmen in Jakarta is that ness partnership with a Suharto has been one of the most effective means of making a profit in Indonesia. Last year, after tailing behind Japan, Britain became the higgest foreign investor with commitments of \$5.5bn (£3.4bn) in 31 separate projects. Hundreds of companies, from BP to the Body Shop, have a presence in Indonesia, and many of those have had a leg up from one of Suharto's children or his network of favoured business cronics.

"Last week, these companies were going about things the right way," said one indignant British husinessman yesterday. "This week everything's changed, and Thames is just the tip of the iceberg. God help all the others who are caught in the middle. How were they to

"On the one hand, you applaud the Indonesian people because they want a more democratic system," said another husinessman. "But the timing is terrible, because they've got to restore investor

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A strange French creature anticipating the eve-of-World-Cup ceremonies in Paris when it will help escort giant football players to the Concorde obelisk Photograph: Michel Lipchitz

German nuclear scandal

BONN (Reuters) - The German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, at times scarlet with anger, yesterday vigorously defended his environment minister in an unfolding scandal on cootaminated shipments of nuclear waste. to reprocessing plants in France and Britain.

"She is not a 'handmaiden' of the industry. She has fulfilled her duties in an outstanding way," he told parliament.

Opposition politicians, who aim to eod Germany's reliance on nuclear power, accused Angela Merkel of having been hlind to problems with contaminated waste shipments over the past decade because of her commitment to atomic energy.

Both the Social Democrat and ecologist Greens parliamentary groups introduced motions calling for Ms Merkel's resignation, but, with Mr Kohl's coalition controlling a majoriment, they were rejected.

نگ مینودد. ۱۹۹۰ بسره

IN BRIEF

Nazi-era 'traitors' pardoned

BONN (AP) - Germany's major parties have agreed to grant a blanket pardon to hundreds of thousands of Germans deemed wrongfully convicted of treason and other crimes by the Nazis. A law, which was expected to pass the lower house yesterday, rehabilitates people, such as resistance fighters and Jews, who were jailed or ordered executed by Nazi courts for political or racist reasons. It also clears the names of some 350,000 men and women forcibly sterilised under the Nazis.

A political compromise over how to treat soldiers who deserted Hitler's army paved the way for the legislation, more than 50 years after the Nazi era eoded. Conservatives in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's ruling coalition refused explicit exoneration for about 20,000 deserters who were sentenced to death by Nazi courts. Instead, the bill lifts Nazi convictions imposed for "military reasons".

Queen's killers to die

KIGALI (Reuters) - A Rwandan military court has sentenced two people to death and one to life imprisonment for the murder of the country's last Tutsi queen during the 1994 genocide. The verdicts were handed down on Tuesday in Butare, south of Kigali, after two former Rwandan army soldiers and a university professor pleaded guilty to killing the queen and six of her relatives four years earlier. Queen Rosalia Gicanda had survived decades of ethnic strife.

Albania peace meeting off

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) - Ethnic Albanian negotiators in Kosovo on Wednesday postponed a coming meeting with

Danes threaten 'No' vote on entry into EU

A MELTING pot," says Karen, the Danish supermodel Helena Christensen. Ringing up purchases in one of the stores on Ostergade, Copenhagen's smartest shopping street she wrinkles her nose in disapproval. "That's what Europe is turning into. I don't want us to be part of that. It might be selfish but it's the Danish way."

The Danish way is threatening to plunge the rest of Europe into crisis again, as voters Poles," was one of the "No" go to the polls today to decide if they can stomach further integration with Europe, and the exposure to fnreign ways they fear will come in its wake.

Denmark's five million citizens live in a highly regulated state where it is common to pay 60 per cent income tax and parents must name their children from an approved list. Yet most Danes share Soren Jensen's view of the lavish welfare system their taxes sustain. "This is a paradise," says the 40-year-old electrician who enjoys six weeks' paid holiday.

But the social model Danes Nordic engineers, Irish bar- are. Our anxiety is about the way

As Denmark goes to the polls today many fear that integration will end their way of life. By Katherine Butler in Copenhagen

day's vote on the Amsterdam treaty. Denmark's famed altruism towards foreign immigrants has been exposed as a sham as many admit openly they only want to share their utopia

with other Danes. "Welcome to 40 million campaign's posters. It had to be withdrawn after protests, though not before it made an impact on voters.

The xenophobic anti-immigration platform of the far right Danish Peoples' Party, led by a housewife, Pia Kjaersgaard, has driven the campaign by raising fears that the open-borders Treaty will lead to a flood of

are so proud of has exposed its tenders or others of EU stock. we perceive ourselves and our uglier side in the run-up to to- A black face in Copenhagen is a rare sight. Most Danes have no contact with immigrants.

> But it is precisely the homogeneity of Danish society and the belief that their system is threat which is feeding unparalleled angst about the nation's

> Left-wing opponents of the Amsterdam treaty have distanced themselves from this xenophobia, but left and right have found common ground on the threat Europe poses to the 500-year-old democracy Danes claim is being smothered as the EU nudges towards political

"Here you can knock on any provisions written into the door and get access to the decision makers. You can ring the Prime Minister at home," says The phobia is generated by Lars Kaaber, of the catch-all tiny numbers. Only four per cent anti-treaty June Movement. "If of the population is non-Dane, you've been to Brussels you and half the outsiders are know how thick the doors there

If they approve the treaty forecasts yesterday suggested the "Yes" lead had narrowed to six per cent - the campaign has highlighted the cultural rift which will keep the EU dilemma raging in Denmark.

When a Danish woman was arrested in New York for leaving her haby outside a restaurant while she ate lunch, Americans applauded the police. But in Danish society bahies, like everyone else, are safe, cushioned by order, regulation and the twin national philosophies of 'jante' which oans anyone from even thinking they are superior to anyone else, and 'bygge' a concept

meaning neighbourly. "Even the bikers have observed a truce for a year," says one diplomat referring to the motorcycle gang wars which have intermittently led to

Observers believe Danish ulent than its British cousin. Feeling they have been tricked into a political project which was sold to them as an economic venture, ordinary people are obssessed with the details of the treaty, as if they were a matter

of urgent personal concern. One woman working in a newsagent said she was worried whether Denmark's opt-outs from the Maastricht Treaty were properly protected in the updated version.

Jorgen Schoubye, 33, a taxi driver said he was voting "Yes" hut only after subjecting the document to intense scrutiny. "I called up the information office at the parliament for a copy of the treaty. They sent me a whole package which I have been reading, although it is very legalistic".

Jan Debel runs his own transport business and will be voting "No". "I'm not saying we should leave the EU but we must pull the brake, we must force them to say where they are leading us", he says.

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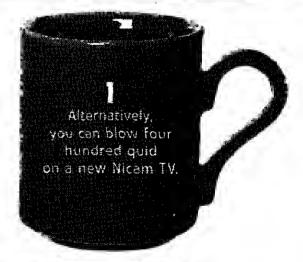
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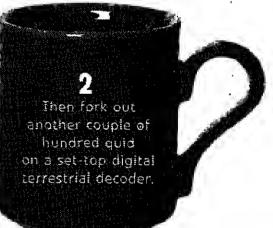






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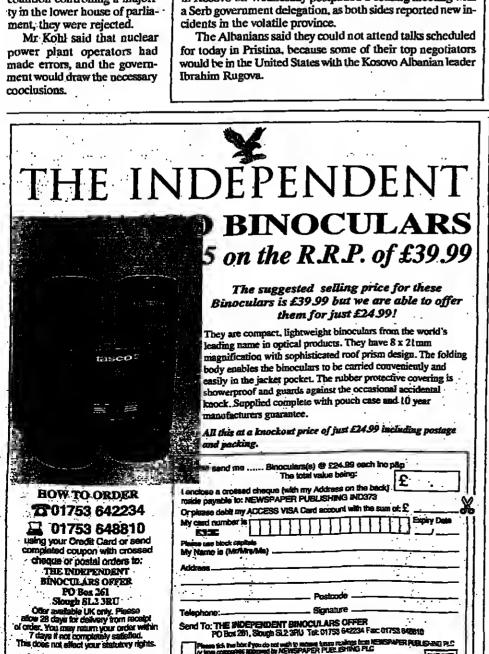




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Ortega faces sex abuse case from his stepdaughter

By Phil Davison Latin America Correspondent

WHILE Nicaragua's former president, Daniel Ortega, was in New York for UN General Assembly sessions in the Eighties, he regularly forced sex on his teenage stepdaughter in hotel closets, she alleged yesterday.

The stepdaughter, Zoilamerica Narvaez, now 30, made this and a 48-page list of other sexual abuse allegations against Mr Ortega, who is still the leader of the Sandinista Party, at a Managua news conference before filing civil and criminal charges against him in a Managua court.

In her affidavit, she said her stepfather pulled her into hotel room clothes cupboards to rape her because he feared the CIA, during the Ronald Reagan era when revolutionary Nicaragua was seen as a thorn in the America's flesh, had planted spy cameras in his hotel rooms. Claiming that having sex with him was her "revolutionary duty, to give him spiritual tranquility so that he could better fulfil the high ohligations thrust upon him by history," the former president often invited a third person to join in, she said.

Even after she was married in 1990, Mr Ortega, now 52 and a father of eight children, would call her for phone sex. Somethe telephone while she made love with her husband. It was still her "revolutionary duty." He continued making sexual propositions to her until early this year, she said.

daughter of Mr Ortega's longtime wife, Rosario Murillo, detailed a dozen years of sexual abuse she said began when she

ൂ

dinista revolution toppled the ble if the court gives credence Nicaraguan dictator Somoza

Mr Ortega, who was reelected leader of the opposition Sandinistas last weekend, made She was raised by her mother no immediate comment. However, he has not denied the charges since they were first made, more vaguely, by Mrs Narvaez to the local media in March. At that time she did not intend to press charges but changed her mind after a series of attacks by Sandinista officials calling her "mentally deranged".

Mr Ortega's wife, a leading Nicaraguan poet, has denounced her daughter's accusations as "totally false". A Sandinista party spokesman, Silvio Mora, yesterday described Mrs Narvaez, who is herself a Sandinista activist, as "capricious and traumatised" times he insisted on listening on and said Mr Ortega may sue her for libel.

The court will decide if there is enough evidence to prosecute Mr Ortega, widely known, even to his opponents, only as Daniel. At present he enjoys imparty leader in the National Assembly. The Assembly would have to strip him of immunity for the case to go forward, unwas 11, a year before the San- likely at present though possi-

to the allegations.

Mrs Narvaez's biological father - Rosario Murillo's first husband - died when she was a child. and by Mr Ortega. But while the couple travelled the world on state visits, taking the girl along. the Sandinista leader took advantage of his stepdaughter, according to the affidavit.

Rumours had been rife in Nicaragua for years that Mr Ortega had had sexual relations with Mrs Narvaez, now a mother of two small children. But her charges angered many Sandinistas, to whom Mr Ortega is still the revolutionary hero. Some felt the allegations were part of a political conspiracy against him at a time when the Sandinistas are at a low ebb, having been out of power for eight years.

Mr Ortega lost the last two presidential elections to the right-wing Violeta Chamorro in 1990 and then to current President Arnoldo Aleman in 1996. Despite his recent re-election as the head of the Sandinistas, few believe he would have run for president again in the year 2002, even without the sexual abuse allegations.

In the affidavit, Mrs Narvaez said the sexual abuse began when she was 11 and living with Ortega and her mother in guerrilla camps in neighbouring Costa Rica during the final stages of the Sandinista war against Somoza. What began as fondling escalated to rape in 1982 when Mr Ortega was president, she claimed. "He threw me down on In the affidavit, Ms Narvaez, munity from prosecution as a the rug, where he not only pawed me but, with aggressive and brusque movements, damaged me. The whole act was forced. It was without my pleasure or consent. This I swear."



Ziolamerica Narvaez telling a Managua press conference of the sex abuse she allegedly received from her stepfather, Daniel Ortega (left) Photograph: AP

Financial turmoil grips Russia

in Moscow

RUSSIA tripled interest rates to a staggering 150 per cent yesterday in an attempt to defend the rouble and find an antidote to the wasting disease afflicting its financial markets.

Boris Yeltsin personally joined the battle, by calling an emergency meeting for today with the head of the Central Bank, his new prime minister, and finance minister as a fresh flurry of panic over Russia's economy sent shares tumbling still further. Rocked by the continuing

fall-out from the Asian crisis, depressed oil prices, labour protests and a plethora of other domestic problems - new and old - Russia's woes are proving to be a baptism of fire for

Kirvenko, a former provincial banker prointed a month ago to cries of alarm from opposi-

His problems were compounded this week by the government's failure to sell at auction the state oil company Rosneft, long hailed as the show piece of the privatisation programme, the model sell-off. \$10bn - 12 per cent of the 1998 Mr Kiriyenko had hoped to raise more than \$2bn (£1.25bn) of the cuts were a foregone confor the gaping state coffers by selling a 75 per cent stake. He decided to press ahead in spite of complaints from potential buyers that the starting price

It was a resounding flop. The leading expected contenders, which include consortia containing BP and Royal

was too high, given world oil

one bid, forcing the Kremlin back to the drawing board. A new auction date will be set on Monday, but the government has cut the opening price to

Mr Yeltsin countered by signing an "austerity plan", cooked up by Mr Kiriyenko, to slash government spending by hudget. Although a proportion clusion, as the government never had a hope of raising the tax revenue to fund them. some will be real.

The country is already echoing with the clamour of victims of market transition - from angry miners (fresh from 10 days of hlockading the railway system) unpaid pensioners and forgotten scientists, to a crum-

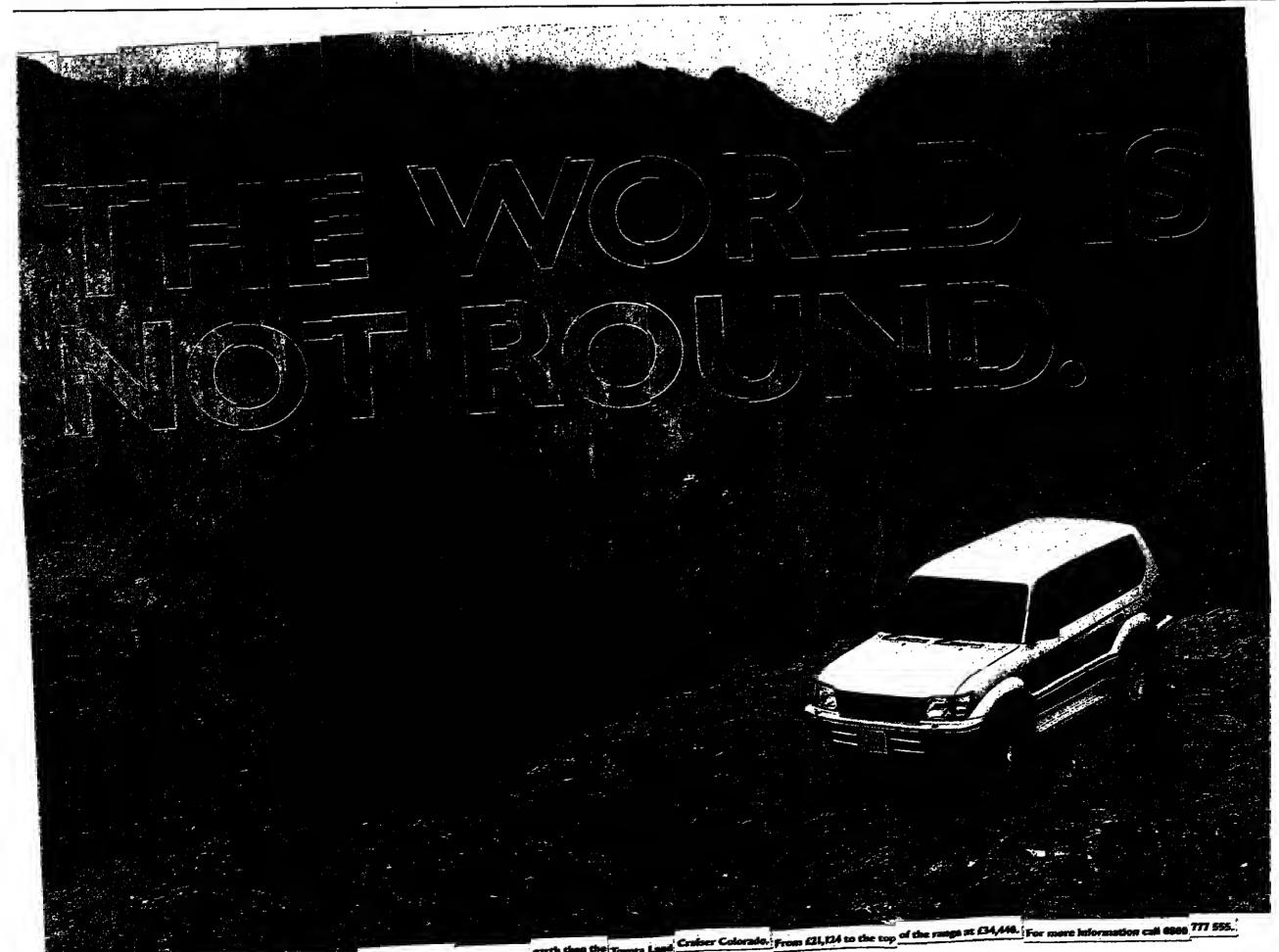
tottering education and health system. However, the president's move was welcomed by the International Monetary Fund, which has dispatched a senior official to Moscow today. The fund is still mulling over the release of the next \$670m tranche of a \$9.2bn loan agreed

Matters were not helped by rumours in Moscow that, after pumping reserves into propping it up, the government will devalue the hitherto stable rouble - sacrificing one of the Yeltsin administration's triumphs in the difficult transition a market economy.

Mr Kiriyenko yesterday reiterated bis determination to defend the currency, as inter- fering befty returns, diverting est rates rose to their highest level since February 1996. It re-

the prime minister, Sergei Dutch/Shell, stayed away. No hling army, and workers in a mains to be seen if this will sooth the nerves of the small stock market, which - after a stellar performance - has recently slumped by 50 per cent.

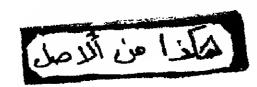
A central part of Russia's problem is that the government is caught in a snare. It is under intense political pressure to pay wages and pensions, despite low tax revenues, meagre foreign investment, and a post-Soviet record-low income for oil. If the situation worsens, there will be a political price to pay notably in the presidential elections in 2000. Nationalism, anti-westernism and a general distaste for reform is already simmering away. To find funds, it has to borrow, but it can only lure investors by oftheir money from vital investment in the infrastructure.



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Catholic martyr still a thorn in Pakistan's side

A bishop's suicide has pushed Christians on the sub-Continent to campaign against blasphemy laws. Peter Popham reports

THREE weeks after the event, the shock waves caused by the suicide of Pakistan's most promineot and outspoken Catholic bishop, Dr John Joseph, are still reverberating.

against the infamous blasphemy law that prompted the bishop's a liar. "Exasperated", the petideath, tried to break through the tion goes on, "the complainant border into Pakistan at Wagah, north-west India. The US State Department has voiced its indignation. And in a move that would have pleased the hishop, Pakistan's churches have, since his death, for the first time decided to campaign together against the law.

Jobn Joseph, the tall, lean, 65-year-old cleric who was one financial inducement to testify. of the first native Pakistanis to The motive: to force Ayyub's be consecrated a hishop, shot and the other Christian families himself through the temple on to abandon the village, then the steps of the sessions court seize their land. in the town of Sabiwal io West Puojab on the evening of sat in the local police station, that Wednesday 6 May. According to where... I was crying" - the took him to the police station. hishop died almost at once.

colleagues are in any doubt as guns, throwing stones, trying to to why he died to bring pressure set it on fire. We had lived to bear on the government to peacefully in the village for 40 repeal a pernicious law which years, but one hour after Ayyub has already resulted in the was stoned we ran away from the deaths through lynching of six village with just what we stood people, including a High Court up in." Since then, their house

to publicise blasphemy law

judge. The law in question is section 295(C) of the Pakistan Penal Code, promulgated by the ment" for killing "a number of dictator Zia ul'Haq in 1986. It Christians before they were is a simple enough statute: even tried", and went on: "Whoever ... directly or indirectly defiles the sacred name of funeral of Manzoor Masih, who the Holy Prophet Muhammad ... shall be punished with death, side the High Court in Lahore, or imprisonment for life".

ly spoken; all that is required for you. We shall not allow any more a conviction is one complainant, and one witness. Although life imprisonment is an option, judges have so far preferred to pass death sentences. None of these has yet been carried out, and some have been overturned by higher courts, but since 1990 Muslim fanatics have taken it upon themselves to murder five to me, 'Before Ayyuh dies, I people either accused or convicted under the statute, and one High Court judge who overturned a lower court's blasphemy conviction.

The story that culminated in Bishop Joseph's death began in October 1996. Ayyub Masih, a 25-year-old Christian, lived with his Christian family in an over- in this mission of breaking barwhelmingly Muslim village in the country outside the town of Sahiwal. He was the first per- of his people." son in his family to become literate, passing his Matriculation Exam in 1996. By trade he was a mason.

The allegation has a farcical quality. On 14 October, according to the prosecution, Ayyub was sitting in the street turned, but his mother says: "I am outside his house when three not upset about Ayyub - I have Muslims happened by. Ayyub. it is alleged, told one of them, we will not get our bishop back."

Muhammad Akram, that his religion was right and Muhammad's was wrong. He then invited the Muslims to go with him to Karachi to peruse the book written by "Sulman On Sunday a large crowd of Rushadi", whereupon they Indian Christians, protesting would realise that their religion was false and the Holy Prophet grappled with Ayyub Masih" and the latter was then banded over to the police.

According to Ayyub, the entire case was a fabrication, cooked up between his family's landlord, a relative of a man in the local police department, and the complainant and witnesses, who were given a large

And even while Ayyub Masih is what happened. His mother, Patras Samuel, the bishop's dri- Anaida Masih, told The Indever who was only yards away at pendent, "When they came and the time, and who was the first seized my son, they beat him with person to reach the body - sticks and pelted him with stones "Blood was spurting every- in the middle of the village, then At the same time, the mob start-None of John Joseph's close ed attacking our house, firing and property have been burned, and the other 15 Christian families have fled as well. After leaving the village, and

after her son had been charged with hlasphemy, Anaida Masih took her woes to Dr Joseph. John Joseph was long known as a campaigning bishop. In 1992 his hunger strike helped persuade the government to drop its plan to include religious affiliation on identity cards. He had been leading the fight against the blasphemy law for years. "We have struggled to save every citizen accused of blasphemy," he said in January. He blamed "the extremist ele-"When I was preaching at the was killed during his trial out-I said: 'Manzoor, we are very The defilement can be mere-sorry for what has happened to of these murders."

One month ago, on 27 April, the death sentence was pronounced on Ayyuh Masih. "I came to Paisalabad to give the bishop the news," his mother recalled, "and he was very upset. I said, 'God will help us,' but he was very worried. Then he said will die. With my sacrifice, perhaps something will happen."

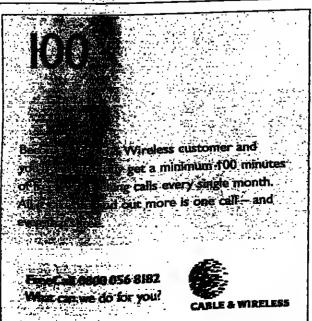
And he was not just saying this to Ayyub Masih's mother: John Joseph was telling the world at large. In a document he sent to Rome, read out there the day before his death, be said: "I shall count myself fortunate if riers, our Lord receives the sacrifice of my blood for the benefit

His fellow Catholics in Pakistan heard his words but did not realise how deeply he meant them. Today they are still trying to come to terms with the implications. Ayyub Masih's death sentence has not been overmany sons. I am upset because



rners who were demonstrating outside the house of the late Bishop John Joseph, in Faisalabad earlier this month

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An intellectual in Paris

The English revile philosophers, the French fête them. But is France's capital still the place to go to contemplate life, the universe and everything? By Michael Glover

SOME OF the words we use to describe banian novelist, Ismail Kadare, for being These are all mocking, purgative and onomatopoeically hard, slugging terms. In Paris, just a smooth Euroride away these days, they do things slightly differently. There, the idea of the intellectual bas a prestige and an emotional gravity that are quite foreign to the pragmatic phlegmatic and anti-theatrical English temperament. But is this still the case - even after the death of Communism?

I have been in Paris to do a little Eurosleuthing. First stop was the news-stand at the Gare du Lyon. Lots of serious literary



fiction, published by Gallimard, dominated the displays. Regis Dehray's autobiography, Pour L'Amour de L'Art - Une Education Intellectuelle, a long-winded exercise in quasi-philosophical self-questioning, was being pushed heavily. As was a book-length interview with the humourist Pierre Desproges, whose shoutline on the from cover read like a pure Cartesian re-hash: "La Seule Certitude Que J'ai c'est d'être Dans Le Doute" (The only certainty is that I am in doubt). Would any English publisher have considered that a strong sales pitcb?

I bought issues of Le Monde, Paris' most information-stuffed daily. Le Monde is visually severe, relentlessly serious-minded and self-assuredly prescient - so confident in its prescience, in fact, that the following day's edition is always available by the afternoon of the day before.

Recently, the papers included a prominent article about 35 cineastes who joined a demonstration to show solidarity with those without legitimate rights of residence. Would anyone in England give two hoots for what a hunch of film-makers thought? Other articles reported on how bitterly French intellectuals were divided over the Algerian question, and attacked the Al-

the idea of an intellectual in England are misguided about Kosovo. "A great literary downright nasty: boffin, wonk, egghead. talent has lost his political passion," snapped the columnist.

That loss of temper is pure Jean-Paul Sartre, who once said that for a writer, political engagement was a fundamental moral necessity. In fact, to be politically quiet was an act of treachery. How more un-English can you get than that?

Why do cincastes man the barricades in this way? I asked the poet, Marc Delouze. over a solidarity-inducing bottle of Côte de Bourg in Montmartre. "To practice the art of film," he replied, "requires both money and collective organisation. It cannot function without either. Poets and novelists can happily practice their art as solidarity individuals, whereas the cineastes cannot ... '

Then I ask him how Sartre is regarded these days. Not well, he says, because be got washed up on the wilder shores of Maoism in his old age. Albert Camus, who didn't believe in the idea of the politically engaged writer, has fared better.

And what do people in general think about the idea of the intellectual? Mistrust, he says. It's a bourgeois, Parisian phenomenon. The idea of the purity of ideas is perhaps a nonsense. So many of them had their faces in the soup... Which means? They were seduced by the idea of power. Now ideology is dead. We have nothing left but capitalism and the market."

Last year, French intellectuals were under attack in the book Impostures Intellectuelles by two physicists, Alan Sokal and Jean Bricmont, who were particularly unhappy at the wholesale appropriation of scientific terms. "They spout scientific theories of which they have, at best, a slender grasp. They display superficial erudition by tossing words at the reader ... They show a profound indifference, if not contempt, for facts and logic." The psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan, philosopher Regis Debray and semiotician Julia Kristeva came out of the book particularly badly.

I ask Delouze about Philippe Sollers, novelist, hiographer, penseur, sometime husband to Kristeva, and one of the "Grands Intellectuels" of the present moment, a man wbo frequently pontificates on cultural matters on French television.

"Très, très, très, brillant," says Delouze, triumphantly emphatic, "but a little slippery, too. A man who once dined with Giscard D'Estaing and more recently identified himself with the Balladur camp.



Sartre and friend discuss serious matters in Café Flore (above). Voltaire entertains fellow philosophers (above left) Photograph: Papillon/Sygma. Engraving MEPL

Aragon, that great, unreconstructed Communist intellectual, once described Delouze as the "Rimbaud De Nos Jours".

Later, I go on the trail of the places that Sartre and other intellectual celebrities haunted. First off, Sartre's last port of call: Montparnasse cemetery. Sartre got a terrific send-off when he died in 1980 - 50,000 people thronged the Boulevard Montparnasse. There they lie together now, he and Simone de Beauvoir, much more consistently so than in life, in an unadorned grave, without religious lconography, a fittingly simple resting place for two virulent atheists. Fresh hunches of tulips have been flung across the tombstone. Not entirely unloved and forgotten, then.

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I, for my part, refused an invitation to the Lilas, a restaurant once used by the likes Elysée after the Gulf War." He pauses for of Picasso, Léger, Matisse, Gertrude Stein, another glass or two and sighs heavily. FScott Fitzgerald... as I sit down amid its plush splendour, I wonder how they all afforded it. Just then I spot him, a few feet away, writing with a slender tortoiseshell pen in an expensive black leather notebook.

My steak tartare arrives, together with the bottle of house red. The wine is terrihle. I tell the waiter what I think without mincing a single word of my polished French: "C'est affreux." The waiter, stung, tells me it's as good as it ought to be for the price-I'd agreed to pay.

Then the writer, who has been observing this theatrical performance, chips in. You should have chosen St Emilion, he says, pointing to the bottle in front of him. I give him a thin, plastic smile and chew stolidly on. The steak tartare tastes like warm grit. Maybe that's my mood. Moments later, a bottle of St Emilion arrives at the table.

staring into the middle distance.

Then we get prattling, this Monsieur and two Parisian intellectual songbirds, about the ancient kingdom of Aquitaine, which bad united the thrones of England and France. About the fact that he himself was from Bordeaux. About art - and bow, in his opinion, art without Catholicism was almost an impossibility. Well, almost.

When he leaves, there is a general stirring in the restaurant. A man leans towards me. "Did you know that was Philippe Sollers?" be says.

I return to the apartment, a little lightheaded, and pluck one of Sollers' most recent books from the bookshelf. It is a hiography of that 18th-century adventurer, Vivant Danon, painter, engraver, soldier, and the amateur egyptologist whose rich plunder adoms the Louvre.

But what interests me more is Sollers'

courtesy of Monsieur. The waiter mutters, manner of writing. Not dry-as-dust like so much Anglo-Saxon biography, but conversational, intimate, witty, as if addressed to some small, highly selective salon of one's fellow intellectuals. He writes almost as though be is a contemporary, and has the broad intellectual compass of a Rousseau, a Voltaire, those great spirits whose ideas helped to shape the making of the French Republic 200 years ago.

That was an age when the writer/ philosopher really had clout; when it was still just possible to believe that the sum total of human knowledge was attainable, and that human beings were perhaps even perfectible if you thought hard and long

But especially so when helped along by a bottle or two of half-decent St Emilion. Some hours - or is it days? - later. I wonk hack to London. I am greeted by a fine. mean, intellectually disparaging drizzle.



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Champagne Sylvie

Even the orchestra, who couldn't see her, gave Sylvie Guillem a standing ovation when she recently appeared with her old ballet company in Paris. By John Percival

"OH GOD, it's Guillem," according to the ballerina herself, is what some people at the Paris Opera say when they see her approaching the theatre she teft nine years ago for an international career.

But that has not stopped them from inviting her back for performances between now and early July in Nureyev's Don Quixote and Romeo and Juliet and MacMillan's Manon.

At ber first night, on Tuesday, the company was at its most glittering and the packed audience greeted every dance with especially warm applause. At the end, among cries of "Brava Sylvie", even the orchestra, though they hadn't been able to see her perform, stood to applaud.

Kitri in Don Quixote is one of Sylvic Guillem's best and favourite parts. Nureyev, who taught her the role, described her in it as "like champagne". which perfectly describes her interpretation, so amazingly light, clegant, bubbling, beady and intoxicating.

She enjoyed a tremendous success in it with the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden but looks even better in Paris for three reasons.

First, the production is so much better. Nureyev provided more and richer dances, and made the story fuller, clearer and more detailed, too. Nicholas Georgiadis's resplendent designs, inspired by Goya, give the characters a convincing habitat, and David Coleman conducts the Opera's orcbestra in a loving, lively account of the Leon Minkus score, arranged by John Lanchbery.

harmonious, they swoop, stamp

and swirl their cloaks with

fierce temperament as market

people, gypsics, fishermen and

matadors; and the hravura solos

in the Dryads and wedding

partners of her own standing,

in technique and personality.

This time it was Nicholas Le

Above all, they can give her

scenes are done with élan.

Second, Guillem is surrounded by an ensemble who studied at the same school as she did. Their style echoes hers. They make the hig classical dream scene delicately



Riche, who was new to the

Corps de Ballet when Guillem

left the Opera but is now their

And for the honour and

challenge of dancing with her,

he used every fraction of his

power in his solos, every bit of

strength in partnering (includ-

ing when she decided to raise

one leg even higher while held

most brilliant young star.

(left) was taught the role of Kitri in 'Don Quixote' by Rudolf Nureyev, who described her in It as 'like champagne'

Sylvie

Guillem

Photograph: Laurie Lewis

up above his head), and every hit of casual charm in his acting

One problem: to get into one of Guillem's performances, you would need either immense luck or to rob somebody who already has tickets. But there is one consolation: many other casts are dancing and with this company you get a good show whoever and whatever is on.

INDEPENI

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70

Cher thinks it sucks. Is she letting the side down, or being refreshingly honest? Bel Mooney and some fellow fiftysomethings come clean

EVER since she arrived for one of the Oscar ceremonies wearing a cobweb-dress in which she looked witchy and magnificent, I have had a sneaking admiration for Cher. Her hippy-headband I Got You Babe youth was my youth, her determination to transform herself from singer into actress had an echo in my own life (journalism to novels), yet the bravado which poured her into that dress in her forties was like the unquenchable vanity which lured me into leather jeans. Now, when she says in an interview in People magazine "I hate my fifties. They suck. I never felt older until I hit fifty," I find myself applauding her honesty.

Helen Mirren, Goldie Hawn, Julie Christie and other iconic glamorous women have all stated they do not mind the advent of the fifties; indeed, I have written it myself. When I reached my 50th birthday (a long 18 months ago) I celebrated the fact with two long, reflective articles in a national newspaper - and everything

I said at the time I meant: "...I don't want to be 30 again. Not with the fire in me now." That sentiment was admirable if only for realism, let alooe optimism and independence. Ah, but the mirror is a source of grief some days. What once seemed (speaks vanity) bewitching, and could wear the witchy with style, now looks, in some lights, straightforwardly like a witch. And like Cher, I hate that.

Wheo I read her words I went to the bathroom and (since such hooesty is catching) tweaked my face from above the ears to see what it would be like to lose the smile lioes that have sagged. There is oo philosophy in the world which can save me from this. I am a creature of the 1950s culture which put teenage girls into girdles, and "set" hair into waves and curls worthy of middle-aged women. I was brought up to think that appearance matters, and cannot understand how a close friend (exactly my age) can "allow" her hair to winter into great swathes of white. When once, inspecting my new red-brown, she asked, 'Don't you want to grow old gracefully', my reply was hiunt: "Sod that!"

- -.4

....

Yet at the same time, I despise this obsession. When (wearing my hat of children's author) I visit schools, I am appalled to hear from head teachers of the increase in eating disorders in teenage girls, as well as the terrible general anxieties about looks that can make the lives of even primary chil-

When I note that fashion and heauty take up far more space in newspapers than 10 years ago, on the grounds that thus female readers will be attracted, I disapprove and yearn nostalgically (another sign of middle-age) for the days when I was a young journalist and this was the stuff of women's magazines. For me, the hysteria after the death of the Princess of Wales was no more, or less, than the canonisation of the clothes horse-horse; a fitting symbol for our appearance-obsessed era.

Of course, ageing matters all the more when (like Cher) your life depends on good looks. Even those who are not locked in that particular prison may feel sad (as I do) that they will oever hackpack around India, or ride pillion on a Harley, across the States, "I want, I want," cries the child inside the middle-aged person, and oo amount of common sense will quieten those little wistful moans, or quell the jumping up to windows impossibly high.

The desperate assertions that being 50 is great, that ageing does not matter, fail to convince - even when attered by someone as intelligent as Heleo Mirren. Is that oot to enter a state of denial which only serves to postpone the moment of horror? To admit that you hate getting older is the first stage towards dealing with it, and constructing a philosophical acceptance which will scaffold you far more surely than makeup or a facelift. The morning comes - and you may be 45, or 60 - when you realise that you are oot as young as you feel but as old as you are. You have boarded the moving staircase and are being carried inexorably towards the grave - and all your scrabbling, and running backwards, and whoops of devil-may-care, cannot put you back again at the top where you were.

This is the dark note that runs through the interview with Cher. What is most interesting is that it seems to have been sparked off by the death of her ex-husband,



Bel Mooney: 'I find myself applauding Cher's honesty

Sonny Bono; as if, with the loss of the man same time, the truth of being older "reshe had fought with for years, she suddenly looked in the mirror and saw what TS Eliot most significant quote in the whole interview is this: "I know it sounds weird but how bad, how hard, can dying be? I figure it's all right because he's done it and if he can do it I can do it. I just feel a little less anxious, a bit more comforted about being dead."

A few days after her 50th hirthday George Eliot wrote to a friend: "... I have a deep sense of change within and of a permanently closer companionship with death." Another of my heroines, Simone de Beauvoir, wrote that at 50 she "seemed to have crossed a frontier", and yet at the

mains foreign to me". Having expressed this universal paradox she goes oo (in All Said called "the skull beneath the skin". The and Done) to say: "I no looger feel the haunting anxiety of death that was so very strong in my youth. I have given up rebelling against it. The idea of my end is with me. Beneath my feet there stretches a road; behind me it emerges from the darkness and in front of me it plunges into the night."

That sense of hrevity concentrates the mind most wonderfully, and is a good reason to look in the mirror with open eyes. Good advice to the middle-aged often involves "re-inventing yourself", yet again there is something desperate about seeking new roles, new selves. Perhaps the

the dying: knowing that each day, in the flaking of your skin, and the beating of your heart, you are waning as surely as you were once waxing - and therefore there is no time to waste. I think about death each day of my life: it is in the "Mexican Day of the Dead" skulls that litter my study. And I find them good company. The hardest thing is to convince peo-

ple that this is not morbid. On the contrary, it is a reminder that behind the face in the mirror is a spirit, and now is the time to realise that things of the spirit have to be allowed their space. Beauty and sexuality -wicked and deceptive things that caused so much trouble - are hard to lose, but I love what I have brought along the way, bravest thing to do is to accept the role of without reinvention. I know there are many gucht, 58, florist "It took me seve years to accept I was in my fifties. At first I hatted it own age group

Karine Vander



've now got a partner who is five years older than me and things have settled down. But the sex I have now is definitely different than when I was in my forcies."

Carole Tibbles 52, clerical to be 50 and I was really anacyed when my partner threw a surprise



party for me on my birthday. I don't think I'm ever going to accept that I'm In my fifties. I like to dress as young as I feel and I don't think I act my age. If I had the money I would consider plastic surgery."

Janice McIvor, 51, secretary "I've always gon for older men, my present partner is 25 years older than me. So I really didn't mind turning 50. I feel



more confident now because I have been around for a bit. I think you get to know yourself better. I certainly feel comfortable with the way I look. I'm less critical of myself than in the past."

Karen Proto, 54, retired "My life didn't really change when I was 50. The radical shift came when I was in my forties, when my children reached



adulthood. When they grew up, my husband and I had the freedom to spend the year sailing around the world in our yacht, It's a fairly physical thing, but I don't seem to have any less energy."

Interviews; Nicole Veash

more books in me, hut it does not particularly bother me if I write them, or take up painting again, or do the garden.

I tiptoe towards age with a husband of 30 years' standing, glad that the impulses of wild youth did oot drive him away. With a son of 24 and a daughter of 18 who are a far greater achievement than backpacking across India. With parents and in-laws I love, and with dear friends with whom I share a conversation unto death. Music. painting, sculpture, books and the fields and trees and wildflowers outside my window matter to me now far more than they did when I was 30. I am overwhelmed with richness, and yet I am not afraid of the day when I have to give them up, and enter the darkness. Or the light.

Understanding his anger might end your holiday hell

DILEMMAS



VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

asked his mother along for a few days of a fortnight's holiday out of a sense of duty. Daphne finds her inane wittering washes over her as she's good at heart, but her husband is constantly irritated, behaves rudely and makes faces behind her back. Daphne finds the situation stressful. What can she do?

Or Who is the lead actor in Dog

INDEPENDENT

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Daphne's husband has people's ghastly mothers or fa-thers and when we've met them have found them to be unfailingly sweet, courteous, intelligent and charming. What we, and Daphne, fail to take into account is how they behaved as parents. One friend of mine was beateo mercilessly with a leather strap and locked into cuphoards by her alcoholic mother. She hates her. And yet out of a curious sense of duty, she continues to see much of her, putting herself under con-

> How, for instance, could one ever forgive a mother who had sent one away to boarding school, miserable and trying to hide one's tears? Or a father who had been totally disinterested in us as children? What is more interesting is why adult children find it so difficult to express their hatred against their parents and often try to hide it from both their parents and themselves, by keeping in constant touch, often under the guise of that frightful word,

"duty" But what duty do we have to had parents? And yet there is an absolute taboo about not loving one's parents; however they behaved in the past. Honouring thy father and mother is, after all, enshrined in the 10 commandments. I recently saw a boy on a television show who had, when his mother was away, sold her car and gone on a spree with his guilfriend with the

When she returned he said he did it because he hated her. She sank into deep depression and ended up in hospital. Even

We have all heard stories of when he revealed that he hated his mother hecause she married a man who loathed his step-children so much that he built a separate bouse in the garden for them to live in, he stopped them ever seeing their mother alone, and insisted they went away to school, the audience was united in their condemnation of his actions. "But she was his mother!" they shricked: "How could he?"

His attitude seemed to me utterly understandable. This woman bad betrayed him, and be wanted to hurt her as much as possible in return. Not very charitable, perhaps, but at least be was open and didn't kow-tow to her for the rest of his life out of a sense of duty. Interestingly, since the incident, he and his mother were getting on far better than they ever had done If Daphne's husband could

be persuaded to talk about his childhood and perhaps get in touch with some of the anger he feels about his mother, and then, acknowledging it, put it in the past where it helongs, he might be persuaded to treat her in a more civilised way. If he's unable to do this, he should see far less of his mother and certainly not ask ber on holiday. Or perhaps the woman treats him like a child, even though he's an adult. No wonder he behaves like one in response.

Parents don't have a right to love and respect. They have to earn it like everyone else. Simply giving a child enough to eat and enough clothes to cover him is not enough. Yes, we certainly owe a duty to our parents if they suddenly become old and

cranky due to age and illness. But not if they have behaved unfeelingly to us in the past. This, I suspect, is Daphne's husband's problem and perhaps Daphne could be a bit more charitable to his moods while, without criticising him, persuading him that these holiday visits are pointless unless he can resolve his rage and behave in a more civil manner.

READERS' REPLIES

There are many milestones on the road to maturity. Some of us think we've reached adulthood when we've completed our education, or married or taken out our first mortgage. All these are useful markers on our journey, but learning how to behave as adults towards our own parents seems to be one of the most difficult milestones to

My sisters and I spent many young adult years complaining. about our mother and comparing examples of her irritating behaviour. Of course, this attitude was obvious in the way we spoke to her and treat-

Eventually, moaning with my sisters became a bit of a bore and I understood that treating my mother badly said much more about me than it did about her. Finally, I made the decision to treat her with the same courtesy I would show to

anyone else. Looking back on it, this seems like an important milestone; the point when I became an adult, separate and more or less equal to my mother. I imagine she had already seeo me this way for years, hat it wasn't really true until I could

see myself this way. Daphne's husband is behaving like an adolescent and needs some encouragement to take the next step on that road to maturity.

Pricilia Plocki, London W 13

Daphne's husband is acting like a petulant brat. The most likely reason for his rudeness to her is that he's embarrassed by her and finds her immensely irritating. His disrespect for her is his way of dissociating himself from her, telling the world that she may be his mother but she makes him cringe.

This is the way spoilt children behave when their parents irk them; throwing tantrums because Daddy wouldn't huy them a BMW for their 18th. I'm sure he wouldn't dream of being so ill mannered and churlish towards colleagues that annoy him. He's lucky to have a mother whose worst crime is inane wittering. Leyla Sanai, Glasgow

Duty should not be forgotten when it comes to the elderly, who need help and to feel loved, but should be kept within bounds. I personally feel that sacrificing several days of a fortnight's holiday is too much, but they may be stuck with it this year. Could they go on a holiday next year which the mother would not enjoy and, in advance, arrange a special treat

to compensate? Margaret Brown, Sevenoaks

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

Dear Virginia, I have a small spare room in my flat and because I am very lonely I have considered letting it out to a lodger. We'd have to share the kitchen and bathroom.

I'd be really interested to know what the pros and cons and are, and whether there are any pitfalls. Do you or your readers think it would be a good idea? -- Connie

Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora.

Send comments and suggestions to Virginia Ironside. Features Department, The Indebendent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E.14 5DL (fac 0171-293 2182), by Tuesday morning. If you have n dilemma of your own that you would like to share, please let me know.

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Farmers must go to the market

IMAGINE. The chairman of the British Phonographic Recording Association demands to see the Prime Minister. A press conference is summoned, to hear complaints about persisting French subsidies to Johnny Hallyday. The Government, it is asserted, has a moral obligation to support record producers and studios. What nonsense, we would say. Here is a self-interested group trying to suborn tax payments and buck consumer trends. Why can't they make a living in the market, like the rest of us?

Yesterday farmers were at something similar, bleating like a spring lamb. Parm incomes have been falling. BSE has struck hard at livestock farmers. The last year has confirmed the way agriculture has been shrinking as an employer and as a proportion of national product; taken as a whole the leisure industries do indeed bulk larger.

We live (at least in the West) in a world awash in food. Self-sufficiency is an anachronistic notion. Trees and housing head the long list of alternative uses of land currently used - often enough abused - for arable and pastoral production. The British farming industry could continue shrinking (a decline which, oddly, has not shown through in land prices) and consumers would not feel a thing - except lower prices. As for rural employment, it depends less and less on farming, and Labour has bright ideas on how to diversify.

So wby should not market logic apply to this sector, as it has - mercilessly - to steel, coal and financial services? It is true that the countryside occupies a special place in the national psyche. Our economic destiny is urban hut our identity and imagination feed off the idea of a deep, green and pleasant England, with its Welsh and Scottish variants. The trouble with farmers is that they have too often proved the worst enemy of that idealised countryside; they spray it, chop it down, pollnte it. Townspeople are more solicitous, as ramhlers, visitors and taxpayers.

Over the years farmers have sought to exempt themselves from modernity by exercising their peculiar leverage on the right of politics. They have used it to fend off market forces which in other contexts the right approved of. It is one of the markers of the Conservative Party's present confused discontents that its leaders cannot see a germ of contradiction here. European agricultural support remains a cesspit. Farmers do have a case on beef - for swifter acceptance by the European Commission that monitoring procedures have improved, and a swifter timetable for reintroducing British beef exports. Groups in distress, such as the hill farmers of the Welsh and English uplands, deserve sympathy. For the rest, the Government should treat farmers for what they are: another interest group with a keen appetite for the contents of the public trough.

Blair unleashes the party heresy-hunters

LONG BEFORE he was elected leader of the Labour Party, Tony Biair was at the forefront of plans to introduce democracy into its mechanisms. So successful has he been that it is barely credible today that as recently as 1993 the trade unions controlled almost 90 per cent of conference votes, and the idea of one member, one vote provoked heated debate. Yet it seems from his latest plan that Mr Blair, champion of party democracy, believed one thing when it suited him and another now that he is in control.

On Tuesday, the party's national executive committee approved a system under which the Chief Whip will notify each MP's constituency party of their member's voting record - in particular, "unauthorised absences" and occasions when he or she has voted against the Government ficial explanation is that this will enable party members to identify those MPs with a poor attendance record when it comes to reselection. Perhaps. But you do not have to be Machiavelli to recognise the not-so-light touch of Blairite centralisation at work once again. Does anyone really imagine that this is other than an attempt to identify heretics - those souls who are not fully sold on the Blairite project?

This is of a piece with the expected refusal of the NEC to allow Ken Livingstone's name to go forward into any selection contest for the party's candidate for Mayor of London. Democracy means that sometimes the result is inconvenient. You cannot pick and choose the results.

Meanwhile, the much-pilloried public services minister, David Clark, has come up with a rather more sensible plan for yearly reports. His proposal that each Commons select committee takes annual evidence from its relevant ministers on their progress over the past year and plans for the next, and that they offer marks out of ten, is precisely the sort of thing New Labour should be about. It smacks of a genuine attempt at openness and at demystifying the mechanics of government.

The leadership's desire to run a well-oiled machine is admirable. Labour's old habits were not admirable; they were chaotic. But there is a fine line between sensible discipline and rigid, unthinking control.

Good pay, poor play

ACCORDING TO a survey in next month's Cricketer magazine, the traditionally impoverished professional cricketer is no more. As a result of the game's television deal, some £60m is being pumped into the counties and into players' pockets. Although this season's £30,000 average salary for capped players would not even pay for a week of Alan Shearer, it marks a risc of 35 per cent over 1995 levels. Cricket appears to have adopted a special type of performance-related pay where the more you are paid, the worse you perform. When England players were mainly amateurs they regularly beat the world. Today they are well rewarded, and can boast one win in the past seven one-day matches.



Emperor and PoWs

Sir: I was appalled by the discourtesy to the Queen and her guest, Emperor Akihito of Japan. Arthur Titherington, chairman of the Japanese Labour Camps Survivors' Association, who has been given almost unlimited coverage to express his opinions, does not speak for all Far East prisoners of war.

I also worked on the Thai-Burma railway, at Sonkurai, where 1,200 out of 1,600 were dead within three months. I agreed to take . part in an escape attempt to let the ontside world know how prisoners worked and died. I am now the only survivor of any such attempt from Thailand, Five died on our escape. After being taken for execution, hut saved by the intervention of Colonel Cyril Wild, I was sentenced to eight

I still have nightmares, but these are not caused by the present or immediate past generation of Japanese. We have reached a time, finally, to forgive, even though it is impossible to forget. The future is all-

JAMES BRADLEY Winchester

Sir: As a Japanese national who has lived in Britain for over 17 years I was surprised by Tony Blair's statement regarding the PoW problem. It is sad that economic necessity has overruled the suffering that the PoWs and internces experienced. However, it is equally sad that the British right-wing media has hijacked the PoW issue and used it as a stick to beat Japan.

Neither country can take the moral high ground; Japan because of the atrocities committed by its soldiers during and before the Second World War, and Britain because of its poor record in Ireland, India and China during the years of the British

crime of nationalism. Japan was a the shattered lives and bodies of our poor country at the beginning of the 20th century and was desperate to stood against them, and whom we catch up with Western nations. It now treat so shamefully. utilised nationalism and imperialism as tools to achieve industrialisation,

LETTERS

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minimum reward and in the harshest of conditions. The Emperor was used as an icon to concentrate the ed inhumanly. As I am his closest livspiritual energy of the nation, to jusdering of other nations. The were he able. I am not driven by a pathological atrocities perpetrated by desire for "blood-money". A simply the Japanese soldiers illustrate the intensity of this totalitarian regime, under which the Japanese people

Why not call it quits and forget years' penal servitude in Outram it? Because those who forget the past Sir. I have every sympathy for the exforward for Japan is to start teaching the young people in school exactly what went on during the war. They are being extremely complacent by not doing so. We cannot turn a new leaf without coming to terms with the past.

TOKUKO HASHIMOTO Editor

Eikoku News Digest London E2

Sir: As a war veteran myself, one of whose school chums was tortured and beheaded by his Japanese captors for the "crime" of attempting to defend his country against a ruthless invading army described by Sir Donald Maitland (letter, 25 May) as "brave and skilful" (a plaudit equally applicable to the Nazi SS), I have a confession to make.

I don't hate the Japanese, some 80 per cent of whom were either born after the war, or too late to take any part in it. But I have little time either for those who concealed their bestial war record for so long from their own children, and who think The real crime in this affair is the that saying "sorry" somehow heals miserably recompensed heroes who

LEN CLARKE Uxbridge, Middlesex

a process which hrutalised the com-. Sir: I travelled from Australia specifmon Japanese worker, who was ically to attend the protest against the forced to work extremely hard for Japanese Emperor. My uncle died in a PoW camp in 1943. According to his pals who survived he was treating relative I feel duty-bound to tify the hardship and also the plun- represent what I believe he would do apology would suffice. JOE O'BRIEN

Greater Manchester

PoWs. However, the Japanese government has already apologised, which Emperor Akihito cannot do because of his constitutional position. During the Queen's visit to Punjab last year, no apology was made for the Amritsar massacre. BALRAJ SINGH GILL

Slough, Berkshire

Sir: The vast majority of people in Japan today were not even born until after the atrocities. If we are to hold people responsible for their ancestors' crimes, then we, the British people, will spend the best part of the rest of our lives apologising. I don't accept responsibility for the slave trade or any of the countless crimes committed by British citizens under the banner of imperialism. CHRISTOPHER WRIGHT Reading, Berkshire

Sir: As a student of uniform, I tend to clip all pictures of people wearing them for my files. But today (27 May) I do not intend to keep your front page picture, as I do not wish to embarrass members of the Royai Corps of Signals by preserving an image of the display of shocking bad manners by one of their number. MEGAN C ROBERTSON Crewe, Cheshire

Voices of prejudice

Sir. My recent experiences confirm the Leonard Cheshire report on attitudes to disabled people ("Disabled shut out by wall of prejudice", 26 May). Following a diagnosis of motor neurone disease at the end of last year, my speech has become affected. This greatly affects the way people who do not know me respond to telephone calls.

I can hear a change when I begin to speak - impatience (some people think I am drunk) or gentle patronhowever, identified one benefit - in relation to telephone sales people. A man from the Daily Mail rang the other night. He could not wait for me to explain to him that I was the householder, said peremptorily that he would ring someone else, and put the phone down on me. Bravo! SANDRA LEVENTON Manchester

March them off

Sir. Now that the majority of the Northern Ireland electorate have shown the Clockwork Orangemen where the door is, perhaps they will now be allowed to enjoy some of the henefits of being in the United Kingdom.

The first has to be a drastic culling of the provocative marches we witness every summer. People have voted for freedom from their higoted past. Now let us see the Government give it to them. WA FRANCIS Tonbridge, Kent

Potent argument

Sir: Do not be too hard on Viagra; it may yet prove the salvation of the rhimoceros. **HUGO MORRISS** Barton Mills, Suffolk

Sir. Your leading article of 25 May ("Who wants to get on the bus?") appears to fall into the trap of being based on "commonly held assump-tions" unsubstantiated by research.

Cars vs trains

The point of us commissioning the MORI poll you refer to was to expose what people are actually thinking and saying, not what commentators assume they are thinking and saying. So when you say John Prescott should realise that his policy "may not be quite as popular with the voters as it is made out to be", which research sources are you quoting?

The poll found 90 per cent of people were unlikely to change their voting pattern if the Government introduced restrictions on cars entering cities, and 25 per ceot would actually be more likely to vote for the age (a response to an assumption that Government if they did this. Only 6 the Government.

The poll showed the importance of understanding what people are really saying: for example, it found 75 per cent would oppose motoring charges if they went to the Treasury - and yet 71 per cent would support the same charges if the money went to public transport.

DAVID CAMPBELL BANNERMAN Communications Director Association of Train Operating Companies London NWI

Sir: John Muldoon's call for the return of litter hins on the London Underground (letters, 27 May) is likely to go unanswered.

London Underground managers have told me privately that they are reluctant to hring back litter hins because there is no evidence that they contribute to making stations tidier. Without them, most people tend to put their sweet wrappers and dirty tissues in their pockets and handbags. According to this theory, those who drop their rubbish on the platform would do so anyway, litter bins or not. And, of course, London Underground saves millions on the expense of emptying the hins and disposing of their contents. CHRISTIAN WOLMAR London N19

A national apology? Of course. Where would you like us to start?



WE ALL seem to want Japan to apologise for war crimes, but why is it only Japan that is expected to feel sorry for anything? Has Britain nothing to a pologise for? Shouldn't Britain feel sorry for occupying so much of the East in the first place? We didn't go into Burma, for instance, at the invitation of the Burmese - we fought, shot and killed our way in there. But did we ever say sorry to the people of Burma?

Did we ever say sorry to the Irish for what Cromwell (and a lot of others) did? No. of course we didn't. And if we did, we wouldn't mean it. Like children, we say sor-

ry with our fingers crossed behind our backs. So, in order to diffuse the blame a bit, I have tabulated a hrief round-the-world summary of what we would like a few countries to apologise for, and what those coun-

tries would REALLY like to apologise for. We would like the Japanese to say they are sorry for the cruelty that was practised on prisoners of war in World War II.

The Japanese would like to say that what they are really sorry about is that they did not win World War II. Still, the way Japanese history is being rewritten in Japanese schools, it is going to look pretty soon as if they did win World War II, which they really did actually, if only on an economic level. Sorry about that ...

We would like the French to say sorry for being so arrogant and refusing to understand us even when we try to speak

The French would like to say how sorry they are that French, which is an infinitely superior language to English and used to be the universal language of diplomats and gentlemen, has been replaced by the clumsy Anglo-Saxon tongue which, by sheer accident, has been adopted by the barbaric Americans, who can never think of any good film ideas of their own but are always remaking French films very badly, ah, ces

crétins américains ... We would like the Germans to apologise for making up for a couple of world war defeats by always sneaking lucky victories against the English in football. The Germans would like to apologise for

nothing. We would like the Americans to apologise for inflicting McDonalds on the rest of the world, or, failing that, at least to apologise for Disney turning so many good European stories (Pinocchio, Hercules, ctc) into the same American junk culture, or, at the very least, for sending all the worst aspects of American culture abroad, and

keeping all the very best at home. The Americans would like to apologise for having rescued Europe in two world wars and gotten nothing but ingratitude in return, and they won't be making that mistake again. We would like the Australians to apolo-

gise for being too good at cricket and rugby. The Australians would like to apologise for thinking that Terry Venables could get them into the football World Cup finals.

We would like the Russians to apologise for making a hash of Communism. The Russians would like to apologise for having failed to realise, during seventy years of Communism, that Mafia methods represented the true way forward all along. We would like the Swedes to apologise

for Abba. The Swedes would like to apologise for

We would like the Israelis to apologise for going on and on about the Holocaust while hypocritically treating the Palestinians as an

inferior race whose land they can steal at will. The Israelis would like to apologise for pretending to be in Europe and stealing the Eurovision Song Contest as well, and

We would like the Norwegians to apologise for being boring.

The Norwegians would like to apologise for getting to the South Pole first. We would like the Chinese to apologise

for there being so many of them. The Chinese would like to apologise for many things, but not while anyone from the West is listening.

We would like the Belgians to apologise for there not being six famous Belgians.

The Belgians would like to say, Not six famous Belgians? We are very sorry. hut haven't you heard of René Magritte? Georges Simenon? Django Reinhardt? Adolphe Saxe? Eddie Merckx? And. um, let's think - ah, Jacques Brel! Phew! Glad you didn't want seven famous Belgians...

Full list of global apologies on request. Just send blank cheque.

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If you want them to say sorry don't ask their government



CORNWELL

ONCE MORE THE apology season is upon us. An American President who apologised for medical experiments upon unknowing hlacks has now apologised - well. almost apologised - for slavery. A British Prime Minister has apologised for the 19thceotury Potato Famine in Ireland.

Some Australians (with the notable exception of their government) have just apologised to the Aborigines. And the Japanese have almost, but not quite, apologised for their horrific treatment of captured British war prisoners in the camps of South-East Asia.

But what can these formal acts of contrition achieve? And, beyond an inner-glow of self-righteousness and short-term political expediency, the answer, one must reluctantly conclude, is: nothing.

The apology, official and unofficial, is part of our confessional age. Admit the sio and it will be expunged from your record; the past will be set to rights and sweet reason will prevail. Confess to guilt over the Potato Famine today, and over Bloody Sunday tomorrow, and the way will be eased towards a settlement in Ireland.

Would that it were so simple, that unpleasant events could be wished away, airhrushed from the collective memory tike Trotsky or Bukharin from a Soviet photograph of Lenin. Alas, apologies by governments, however well-intentioned, cannot do that, for the past is part of our present.

The divisions of Ireland and the brutalities visited upon British POWs on the other side of the world offer a common lesson: If apology and forgiveness are to mean anything. they must be at the level of the individual.

How inconvenient that must be for Tony Blair, so irritated by our national obsession with the past. Indeed, he must have reflected on the irony of the monarch of his future-oriented kingdom bestowing the Order of the Garter upon her guest, thus using mediaeval mumbo-jumbo to pour petrol on the flames of a controversy our Prime Minister devoutly wishes would disappear in the higher interests of trade, mutual affection and prosperity for all.

But just as only the capacity of the individual inhabitants of Northern Ireland to forgive the outrages visited upon their families and communities by their foes can turn the Good Friday settlement into a permanent peace, so it must be for the veterans and their captors to find their own accommodation.

Anything less would be akin to the eyeslowered handshake of apology wrung from a boy found guilty of schoolyard bullying - a grudging truce that makes it no less likely he will pick the very same fight the next week.

And, you might ask, if Japan must seek a pardon, should we escape censure? This polities by gesture could continue ad infinitum. teetering between political correctness and downright absurdity.

If the Potato Famine, slavery and the treatment of British prisoners in South-East Asia, then why not public cootrition to Wales for being forced into the Union, to Scotland for Culloden, indeed, to every country subjected to the attentions of Britannia Imperatrix?

After all, the soldiers were stationed in Asia 55 years ago to protect an empire imposed, unsought and unwanted, upon native populations reduced to second-class citizens in their own land. Have we apologised for that?

Perhaps, official remorse has been expressed. But in the hearts of individual British people - in other words the national subconscious - the Empire remains n source of pride not shame. No formulation of words from our rulers will make the slightest difference.

But it will be asked, what of the Germans? After all, they have apologised, and have we not made our peace with them? Indeed, we have, but not, I would argue, as a result of any formal statements on the part of the German government (and these have been legion), nor cause of the huge sums paid by Bonn to empensate victims of the Nazi regime.

No, the decisive element has been the visible sorrow and sense of guilt of individual Germans - a trauma whose collective legacy is a country to this day scared of its own shadow.

When Chancetlor Willy Brandt fell to his knees in 1970 before the monument to the victims of the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw, and when President Richard von Weizsäcker delivered his famous speech of national expiation, asking why everyone went about their usual business as "the trains which rolled in the night" carried the innocent to the deathcamps, both men were expressing not just their

The most fitting atonement for wars is to ensure they never occur again - deeds not words

country's anguish but their own. Nie wieder - Never Again - is not a hollow slogan, hut the deepest wish of almost every German. If Japan's post-war behaviour is a guide, it is the deepest wish of the Japanese people, too. The proof of repentance lies in deeds, not words.

The most fitting atonement for war and its savageries is to ensure they never occur again. The two most bellicose of this century's powers have become its most pacifist. Regret, sorrow, pain, contrition... it matters not which infinitely calibrated choice of words finally passes the lips of the Emperor or his government.

I would be the last to make light of the unspeakable sufferings of those veterans who turned their backs on the Emperor along the Mall and burned his country's flag. For the former prisoners who can forgive, I have boundless admiration. For those who cannot, I have equally boundless understanding.

How would I react in similar circumstances? Having never been put to such a trial, I simply do not know. What I do know however, is that the apology and the forgiveness which count are those freely arrived at between individuals, hetween he who inflicted misery and he who endured it.

Pagans and the craggy home of the playboy of the western world



لمكذا من ألاصل

JOHN WALSH

went to the Aran Islands the other day, those three strips of flat limestone and patchwork-quilt fields off the west coast of Ireland. Fans of Father Ted will be familiar with the smallest island, Inisheer, because it doubles as Craggy Island in the aerial credit sequence, hut otherwise the Arans remain a mysterious presence on the Atlantic coast - beyond civilisation, beyond the stone wilderness of Connemara, a place off the scale when it comes to elemental wildness.

I'd gone there in the footsteps of John Millington Synge, the Irish playwright, who first set foot on the Arans in May 1898. According to literary myth, he was told to go there by WB Yeats, when the two men met in Paris two years earlier - to go and "express a life that has never found expression".

He landed on Inishmore ("the hig island") on 10 May, but found it a boringly ordinary fishing port, albeit with a dramatic medieval stone fort perched on a 300ft cliff. After two weeks, he headed for Inishmaan ("the middle island") and stayed for two months, taking in a brief excursion to Inisheer ("the small island") at the end.

And from this unpromising terrain of stony field and storm-lashed beach, he invented Anglo-Irish drama.

Is that pitching it too high? Certainly, from listening to the locals' conversation (and that of the servant girls through the floorboards of his room) and rendering it into English while keeping its Celtic rhythm, he found the melancholic, meandering but passionate voice that became the sound of Irish drama this century, from The Playboy of the Western World to Martin McDonagh's Leenane Trilogy, which is currently knocking 'em dead on Broadway.

What he found was a small community of fishing people and subsistence farmers, who spoke Gaelic and loved news, and for whom pagan gods and spirits and fairies were real, everyday things. It must have been like discovering magical realism walking towards him on a windy beach.

He wrote about their clothes, especially the red petticoats of the women and the waistcoats and calf-skin shoes ("pampooties") of the men, which had to be soaked in water every night to soften their hides. He hung out with the girls on the beach (they admired his enormous camera and his handsome moustache) and played his violin for the oldsters in the pub. The locals asked him about the progress of the Spanish-American war and bragged about their fame ahroad.

Because most of the strangers they met were philologists, the islanders concluded that most Europeans were fixated on their tongue. "Believe me," ooe man assured Synge, "there are few rich men now in the world who are not studying the Gaelic."

nd if he were alive now, and went to see the place? On Inishmaan, a borrible pink neon sign announces a nearby B'n'B and there is a ramshackle hurger shack on the beach. But the modern world hasn't treated the place too badly.

Paddy Crowe, who plies the local ferry between the islands and the Clare mainland, carries a mobile phone and calls his boat "The Happy Hooker". His wife Sarah makes coffee from a Krups espresso machine in her super-modern kitchen. Their children are hilingual, but speak Irish at break-time in the 32-desk school. There are four ponies and traps,

three cars, three pubs and no crime. The grocer's shop sells loose nails, potato farls, lamp oil and a biography of Sean O'Casey, but your more sophisticated requirements (prosciutto, capers, the Independent) must be ordered from Galway and sent by ferry.

Inishmaan, where Synge spent the most time, is hleaker, stonier, hillier and more savage than its neighbours, and its population is dwindling.



woro in 1988, and the elderly Aran ladies don't wear red petticoats any more; instead they process grandly past you in full black skirts and shawls crocheted in

umpteen primary colours. There is just one pub, known to all as "The Puh", where the landlord is Padraig Sean Brian - his second and third Christian names being the names of his grandfather and father, a kind of grid-reference on the map of island relationships and descendencies.

Surnames are pretty irrelevant anyway, since everyone you meet is a Faherty, a Coneelly or a McDonagh, just as they were in Synge's time.

I found the cottage where he stayed, four summers running. It is fantastically dilapidated, but they plan to restore it this year, to offer guided tours, serve visitors tea and cakes and allow aspiring writers a room in which to compose. Otherwise, Inishmaan is winding

down. Twenty years ago, there were 250 souls; now there are 171. There are only 16 children in the school. "I don't see much future for the island," said one born-and-bred Inishmaanite. "People will disappear, or else they'll grow up, leave and not come back." What they dread most is not be-

coming a ghost island, but of being overrun by Europeans, as Achill has been overrun by Germans. As you stand on the hillside by the

stone "seat" Synge huilt 100 years ago, and look at the gorgeous view - the serried lines of dry-stone wall, the timy green

John Millington Synge (left), the inventor of Anglo-Irish drama Photograph: Trinity College Dublin/Penguin Books

fields above, the smooth playing-fields of rock below, the far Homeric Cliffs of Moher - you think: It's time another Playboy appeared, to save this outcrop of the western world from extinction.

the national hostility that hangs like a Bhopal cloud over the Japanese emperor's visit has surprised many people.

Why (they ask) the toxic animosity about the Japanese war record? Why, do we find it so hard to forgive the Japanese the Burma-Siam Railway? More ro the point, why is it not just the military veterans who still bear a grudge against the Yellow Peril, hut a younger (male) generation in their forties and fifties who never took part in the conflict?

The reason may be found in the anti-Japanese iconography of the comics we read in the late Fifties - where the guards always wore shorts and granny speciacles and waved Samurai swords around and yelled 'Agaiiieee! You die, Blitish dog" when crossed by the brave Allied prisocers. But it can be located more pungently in a single book.

It was called The Knights of Bushido hy Lord Russell of Liverpool. It was a small paperback that every schoolboy of my generation remembers, for it was passed from hand to hand in playground and locker room like a nasty variant of the Kama Sutra.

And there was, indeed, something a wee bit perverse about its lovingly detailed, close-up descriptions of Japanese war crimes, complete with grotesque pictures of emaciated bodies being hrutalised and tortured.

Like a basic primer of cruelty, it offered to our astonished eyes a glimpse of how inventively sadistic human beings could be with each other, using nothing more elaborate than a water hose, a handful of rice seeds and a length Lord Russell, a First World War sol-

dier and lawyer turned military prosecutor, also wrote The Scourge of the Swastika, a companion volume about Nazi war crimes - but that wasn't nearly as gory and we didn't bother with it.

Every literate male fortysomething Pvc spoken to remembers the Bushido volume and how soiled they felt after only dipping into it.

I'm certain it embedded a gene of Nippophobia in our hearts, inextricably entwined with our first stirrings of sado-masochism.

Piracy is a threat, but the Internet is the performer's best friend



GROSSMAN

BRITISH Music Rights, a campaigning organisation set up by music publishers and composers, are demanding that the Government look into the enforcement of copyright on the Internet, insisting that Britain's third largest invisible export small record labels would be far

could be badly damaged without a legal framework.

to download CD-quality music from Websites, music publishers are following in the footsteps of law enforcement. print publishers, and governments in demanding regulation to mitigate their fear of losing control

Speaking as a former internationally obscure folk singer. it's pretty galling to see a huge, galumphing industry notorious for ripping off its artists pleading that there will be no incentive to invest in new work if the Internet isn't regulated now.

EMI made £307m in profits last year, compare that to the £40m the industry estimates it is losing to piracy.

While it is true that the many

more seriously damaged if piracy runs out of control, we all Now it has become possible know perfectly well that any money clawed back from regulating Internet downloads won't go to those small companies. It will go to the big play-

> The Internet does not need special regulation in order to stop piracy. It is already clearly illegal to sell bootlegged copies of copyrighted works; the precise nature of the distribution mechanism is irrelevant. Requiring Internet service

ers: them that has, gets.

providers and telecommunications companies to act as copyright police is still more inappropriate. British Music Rights have singled out Webbased fan sites, some of which have offered unreleased concert

recordings or studio out-takes. I'm more sympathetic on this last point, since artists only have the right to control the first recording of their songs (after that, issuing a licence to another artist to cover the song is automatic), and publication on the Weh might easily jeopardise that right.

But can there be any sight more graceless than last year's demands from Oasis's management that Web-site owners take down all copyrighted material (photos, videos, song clips, lyrics)? A distinction has to be made between a forprofit bootleg operation and a

Copyright law is commonly thought of as existing to give creative artists the chance to profit from their work so that they can afford to go on being creative artists. But it has a balancing purpose, too, which is to

give the public fair access to that

The fair use doctrine, which permits things like quoting from books and articles for the purpose of review, parody, or comment, does not apply to music. The use of the tiniest prion of a tune may be subject to legal action, even though musicians throughout history traditionally quoted from each Other's work much the way book authors do.

If we are going to revise the copyright laws for the digital era, I believe fair use should be applied to music - and film, TV, and video, too.

The music industry has more reason than most to be scared of the Internet. Not only does the Net offer a lowcost distribution mechanism (albeit without the luxurious

cover art), but it makes it easier for independent bands to develop a following and by-pass traditional record companies entirely.

But music publishers could. if they chose, see the Internet as an opportunity to huild closer relationships between bands and Britain's 6m Weh users. They could learn to use the unique qualities of the Net to sell products that would have been uneconomic before, such as niche artistes, scraps of music too short for radio play hnt suitable for Windows start-up noises, or custom recordings of

personalised lyrics. Unfortunately, British Music Rights has done the equivalent of declaring war on the Net. Not the best marketing strategy for a new millen-

nium, I'd have thought.

and investigative magazine which ran

an unflattering profile of the Egyptian.

once again placing ads in Condé

Nast publications, the ultimate sign of

peace came a few days ago. Condé

Nast has won a hotly contested bat-

tle with National Magazines to pro-

duce Harrods' Christmas catalogue.

While the Knightsbridge shop is

anyone out of your Will? Give your pet a home for life by leaving a legacy to The Blue Cross

Have you left

Do you worry about what would happen to your per . if you were no longer there? By leaving a legacy to The Blue Cross, you can hetp us give your companion food, shelter, kindness and cuddles for the rest of his life. Every year. The Blue Cross rescue thousands of homeless

pets. We took after them all until loving, new homes can be found, no matter how long it takes - that's a promise. If you would like us to care for your best friend when

von'te gone, return the coupon below to find out more about making a legacy to The Blue Cross.

Protect your per's future - find out more abo

	remembering.	The Blue	Cross in you	ir Will.
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Add	ress			

Send to; Charlotte Ports, The Blue Crea Freepost, Room 918C, Shilton Road, Burford, Oxon OX18 43R.

Dead end

EVERYONE was auxious to leave for last week's parliamentary recess but a debate on the Common Agricultural Policy detained many of them.

Pandora has great sympathy for Jean Corston, MP for Bristol East, whose adjournment debate came as the last piece of business on the agenda, the so-called "graveyard slot". The title of her

The Listener

ANN DIAMOND is recognised as one of the most dogged interviewers in the British media. This has not changed since she and Nick Owen

joined LBC Radio. In a recent confrontation with Mark Oaten, Chairman of the All Party Group on Far East Prisoners of War, she repeatedly asked the Liberal Democrat MP for Winchester if he. didn't have sympathy for those protesting the visit of the Japanese Emperor. Yes, he did feel sorry, Oaten said over and over, to the point that it was becoming habitual.

Later, Oaten told friends that he suspected Diamond had been wrongly briefed that he was not sympathetic to the POW's cause. "I wish Nick had been there," he mused tiredly.

We like Harry

A RATHER nasty British media story has surfaced in, of all places, New York's Village Voice. It concerns Harry Evans and his period as editor of the

Sunday Times in 1972. It appears the distinguished former editor and husband of Tina Brown has truly been the victim of a unfair hatchet job.

The media editor of Village Voice, James Ledbetter, has accused Evans of helping to "bury compelling evidence that the British military planned in advance the infamous 1972 Londonderry attack known as Bloody Sunday".

The truth is that an initial piece by Murray Sayle and Derek Humphry, with assistance from Peter Pringle, was spiked by the Sunday Times'

lawyers. "I remember Murray Sayle crying when the piece was stopped," Pringle recalls.

But he points out that Evans then sent his "Insight Team" to Northern Ireland for three months solely to work on the investigation. The result was a massive story that upheld most of Sayle's and Humphry's original accusations.

None of this was mentioned in Village Voice, a leading "alternative" NYC newspaper which regularly launches ttacks on mainstream newspapers like the New York Times and the Dai-

vice-chairman of the Daily News.

Chill out

ANYBODY who has seen Tim Roth acting in Reservoir Dogs or his latest film, Liar, has to respect the man's intensity. But if you have the kind of energy Roth has, it's evidently not all that

Last night in the Groucho, Roth

was having a beer with friends. One

celebrity-watcher noticed not only was the Hollywood star chewing gum hut

Harold Evans is now, of course,

easy to switch it off.

he was smoking at the same time. Peace on earth

ONE OF the bitterest fends of the Nineties is clearly over. Their out-ofcourt settlement was announced months ago by Harrods owner. Mohamed Al Payed, and Condé Nast, publishers of Vanity Fair, the celebrity

debate? "Arnos Vale Cemetery".

tinguished by great courtesy and an encyclopaedic and scholarly knowledge of railways.

In his 17 years in charge of the National Railway Museum in York, the museum achieved a stature and authority without precedent in the fields of railway history and preservation. But it was his personal qualities tration and inspired profound precedent that other museums affection and respect among colleagues and friends as well as those of the wider public who ed Keeper of the new museum came to appreciate and becefit from his achievements.

Colley was born in 1932 and educated at Beckenham and Penge Grammar School and Selwyn College, Cambridge, where he obtained his BA and later a PhD in metallurgy. His early career was with the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, at Harwell, followed by a period in industry as a development manager. Recruited in 1973 to the Science Museum in London, he presided over the crucial stages in the setting up of the new railway museum in York. He brought with him a life-long interest in and knowledge of railways and arrived in the museum as the York initiative was beginning to take shape.

The National Railway Museum resulted directly from the 1968 Transport Act which established that the British Railways Board should transfer responsibility for its outstanding historic railway collection tn the Department of Education and Science, which in that context meant the Science Museum.

After prolonged deliberation on the future location of the collection, the Minister, Jennie Lee, in the debate nn the Bill on 5 December 1968, said that, "to have one really first-class

JOHN COILEY was a man dis-museum at York is in the best interest of the people generally, and it is in keeping with government policy that we should have some high points of excellence outside London as well as inside".

That decision set the scene for the first major national collection to be housed outside London, as an outstation of the that characterised his adminis- Science Museum, and set a continue to follow.

In 1974 Coiley was appointand led the immense task of transferring to York the collections, then largely housed in the Museum of British Transport in Clapham, south London. and installing the displays in the converted building. He saw the museum through its successful opening by the Duke of Edinhurgh on 27 September 1975. the 150th anniversary of the npening of the Stockton and Darlington Railway.

The museum was an instant success. Visitor numbers exceeded all expectations, hringing numerous awards and playing an important part in transforming Ynrk's tourism economy. A new standard had been set against which railway and transport museums would he judged internationally.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s the collections continued to grow under the terms of a condition in the 1968 Act which gave the museum the right to claim redundant railway material. This could have been a recipe for unfettered acquisition but under Coiley's thoughtful leadership, the museum established a selective and carefully prioritised collecting policy from which it has continued to derive huge benefits.

Additional premises were



Coiley in 1992 at the National Railway Museum, York, after 17 years at its helm

acquired, notably the Railway Goods Depot across Leeman Road. By the mid-1980s plans were well advanced for its opening, thereby almost doubling the size of the museum, when serious structural problems were encountered with the concrete

roof of the original hall. A major programme was launched to replace the roof, hut the core of the National Railway Collection stayed on public display throughout these works by the transfer of material to two transport exhibitions, one in York and one in Swindon. Coiley guided the museum through these turbulent affairs with quiet authority tn enjoy the accolade in 1991 of the National Railway Museum

gaining the Museum of the Year Award. Within the railway commu-

nity, Coiley's name was linked inescapably with that of the National Railway Museum. Wherever the museum was involved, his courtly and considerate presence impressed itself. All who came into contact with him felt that they had made a new friend, both of Coiley and of the museum. One result was that for those who harboured an interest in railways the museum was theirs" in a manner unknown in most other fields.

Coiley retired in January 1992, on the eve of the next stage of expansion, leaving behind a museum which was by then the most significant in its reflected in Coiley's contribution railway as we know it, there

overstretched, under Colley's careful management the museum had been able to develop its photographic archives and pictorial collections, sustain a programme of conservation of locomotives and rolling stock and expand its programme of loans to other museums

To coincide with his retirement, a group of his friends and colleagues wrote and edited a Festschrift, Perspectives on Railway History and Interpretation, as a mark of the high regard in which they held bim.

throughout the country.

The growing international status of the museum had been

field anywhere in the world. Al- to the International Association though finances were becoming of Transport Museums. After his retirement, his devotion to the museum continued through his vigorous support for the Friends of the National Railway Museum. He was an honoured guest at the 21st anniversary dinner of the Friends just a few days before his untimely death from a heart attack at Chur, Switzerland. where, characteristically, he was

> lights of alpine railways. John Coiley's gentle manner masked a great sense of fun. He was an accomplished photographer, a lover of fast cars and sometime rally driver but his real achievement was to ensure that in the country of origin of the

leading a group exploring the de-

should be a national museum-of stature in which its history, technnlogy and contemporary practice could be properly portrayed. **Neil Cossons**

John Arthur Colley, museum curator: born 29 March 1932; Scientific Officer, UKAEA, Harwell 1957-60; Scientific Officer, Aeon Laboratories, Egham 1960-65; Development Manager, Fulmer Research Laboratories 1965-73: Assistant Keeper. Science Museum 1973-74; Keeper, National Railway Museum, York 1974-92; Member of the Board, International Association of Transport Museums 1977-91, President 1983-86, Vice-President 1986-91; married 1956 Patsy Dixon (two sons, one daughter); died Chur, Switzerland 22 May 1998.

John .ooms

JOHN LOOMS was a leading authority on high-voltage electricity transmission and insulators who piooeered "live" working oo high-voltage lines and invented vandal-proof insulators for them.

He died the day after learning that his arguments against the use of plastic insulators which he regarded as not sufficiently tested - for new rail electrification by Railtrack and Virgin Rail, had been turned down.

Looms held patents for more than 100 inventions. They ranged over a wide variety of electrical applications, including new methods of paint-spraying for cars. On retiring from the Central Electrical Research Laboratories (CERL) at Leatherhead in 1980, he became an internationally renowned consultant. He wrote what became the standard textbook on high power transmission and insulators, Insulators for High Voltages (1988). Though not translated into Japanese, this now circulates widely in Japan in pirate editions.

John Looms was not destined for a career in science. His father, in the 1930s depression, thought he should opt far security in the civil service, preferably as a barrister, as he believed that there would always be jobs prosecuting criminals. The Second World War inter-. vened and Looms served in radio and signals. His own war aim, according to his family, was to get to Scandinavia. Having seen Ingrid Bergman in Casablanca he declared "I'll have one of those", and ended up in Denmark where he met his future wife, Karen Bergreen,

After the war he worked first in the Inland Revenue but studied by night at Birkbeck College London, taking an external de gree in Physics. In 1951 he joined the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington. Nine years on, wanting to work in a field which had a more immediate application to people's lives, he moved, still a civil servant, to the CERL Several of of his former colleagues who had at first deplored his move away from "pure science" followed.

Looms did much of his work on insulators at what he claimed was the "most polluted of all spots", the test site at Brighton Power Statioo at Shoreham; it boasted a mixture of sea fogs, salt winds and industrial smoke. While here, he worked out the internationally accepted Seafog Test - subjecting insulators to prolonged testing under the most adverse conditions to see how long they lasted before " "flashing over" (a miniature lightning discharge).

Always in his mind was the human benefit of his work. His vandal-proof insulators' chief merit, in his eyes, was that they eliminated danger to vandals --children throwing stones and sticks in the hope of breaking

them. "Live" working on power lines, doing repairs without switching the current off, had considerable economic benefits. Looms rigorously tested everything himself before allowing others near. He is believed to have been the first man anywhere in have worked with bare hands on overhead power lines at 400,000 volts. He achieved it with plastic chains to insulate the repair worker and metallised suits to prntect against corona discharge from

the live lines. It was his concern for people's well-being which led to John Looms's opposition to what he believed was the insufficiently tested use of plastic in railway insulators. Trials in the American prairies and the Australian outback, he believed. shnuld ont he extended to Britain's densely populated railside urban areas, where the collapse of a high-voltage line across houses or a road could have appalling consequences.

Alfred Browne

John Sidney Thornas Looms, electrical engineer: born London 3 August 1918; married 1947 Karen Bergreen (one son, one daughter); died East Molesey, Surrey 24 May 1998.

Gene Raymond

AN ACTOR who had a long carole at the age of 12. By the time reer in film, television and theatre, Geoe Raymond will nevertheless he best rememhered as the husband of the singing star Jeanette MacDon- art was the juvenile lead. ald, Though Raymond made over 40 films, his career never equalled his wife's in stature.

Blood and dashingly handsome, he was a capable leading man in many movies, but tended to play second-leads in the really hig ooes -- he was Mary Astor's cuckolded husband in obert Montgomery and Car- strong leading ladies. ole Lombard in Hitchcock's Mr and Mrs Smith (1941).

One of the biggest hits in which he starred, Flying Down to Rio (1933), is notable more for the first teaming of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, in supporting roles. The actor's most fondly remembered film is Smilin' Through (1941), the only time he played opposite his wife.

Born Raymond Guion in New York City in 1908 and educated at the Professional Children's Schnnl, he made his theatrical déhut at the age nf five and had his first Broadway

he was 21 he had played major roles in five Broadway shows, including Cradle Snatchers (1925), in which young Humphrey Bog-He was billed under his real

name in all these shows, hut Paramount rechristeoed him Gene Raymood in 1931 when they brought him out to Hollywood. His first two films, Personal Maid (1931), with Nancy Carroll, and Ladies of the Big House (1931), with Sylvia Sidthe Gable-Harlow Red Dust ocy, set a pattern in which he (1932) and third hilled to was frequently overshadowed by

In Ann Carver's Profession (1933) he was the weakling husband of a lawyer (Fay Wray), who ends up defending him for murder, in Brief Moment (1933) a rich loafer reformed by the love of nightclub singer Carole Lomhard, and he was also teamed with Bette Davis in Ex-Lady (1933), and Barbara Stanwyck in both The Woman In Red (1934) and the featherweight comedy The Bride Walks Out (1936).

Among his best films were the lyrical, beautifully photographed Zoo in Budapest (1933), in which he displayed a rarely tapped sensitivity as an animal-loving young man who lives in the 200 where he works and falls in love with a runaway waif (Loretta Young) hiding there, and two films with Ann Sothern, the perky musical Hooray for Love (1935) and a comedy The Smartest Girl in Town (1936).

Raymond had a pleasant tenor voice, and introduced on screen two minor standards, Brown and Freed's "All I Do Is Dream of You" in the Joan Crawford vehicle Sadie McKee (1933), and with Harriet Hillyard, "Let's Have Another Cigarette" by Magidson and Wrubel.

Smilin' Through, shot in lush colour, was his last film before war service, during which he served as a pilot in the B-17 bomber group that inaugurated precision bombing.

Resuming his career, he was the fiance of the kleptomaniac Laraine Day in the complex film noir The Locket (1946), then produced and directed a modest mystery movie, Million Dollar Weekend (1947), in which he played the starring role as an embezzler. The film was not a success, and Raymond concen-

He was host, panellist or actor on many television shows including Fireside Theatre, Ironside. and The Girl from U.N.C.L.E. and had appeared in touring or summer stock productions of popular plays like The Voice of the Turtle, Private Lives and the musical Kiss Me Kate.

He also wrote several songs. for his wife to perform on her . coocert tours. He returned to . films with the thankless role of an ageing actor trying to seduce Jane Powell in the musical Hit The Deck (1957), but had a good role in the fine political drama written by Gore Vidal and directed by Franklin Schaffner, The Best Man (1964).

In 1967, as a colonel in the Air Force Reserve, he flew jets into South Vietnam on highpriority missions and won the Legion of Merit. His last film credit came in 1969 when he provided the Voice of Death in the western Five Bloody Graves.

Apart from an occasional character role on television he concentrated during his final years on his investments and business interests. Always involved in the affairs of the industry, he was trated on television and theatre. at various times a board mem-



ber of the Screen Actors Guild and Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, president of the Motion Picture and Television Fund, president of the Los Angeles chapter of the Air Force Association and vice president of the Arthritis Foundation.

Donald in 1937 (her famous co- again in 1995. star Nelson Eddy sang "O Promise Me" at their wedding) and he was at her bedside when she died in 1965, her last words allegedly heing "I love you". Raymond married a second

followers, in addition to his lead-

ing the prayers in the Rawda, was

clearly the last straw. Burujirdi

would have become a symbol of

resistance to the Baathist gov-

ernment which has for the past

30 years pursued a policy of ut-

ter ruthlessness towards the Shia

ulema. Recently he was visited by

a delegation from the Ministry

of Awqaf (Religious Endow-

ments) demanding his resigna-

tion from leading the prayers.

He married Jeanette Mac- time in 1974 and was widowed

Raymond Guion (Gene Raymond), actor: born New York B August 1908; twice married; died Las Angeles 3 May 1998.

Ayatollah Shaykh Murtada al-Burujirdi

AYATOLLAH SHAYKH Murtada al-Burujirdi, who was assassinated last month, was a leading religious scholar and jurist at Najaf in Iraq, one of the Shia Muslims' holiest cities since it contains the tomh of the first Shia Imam. Amir al-Mu'minin Ali ibn Abi Talib. Najaf is also the seat of the 1.000-year-old Hawza Ilmiyya, the oldest Shia university.

Burujirdi was born io Najaf in 1931 hut his family originated from the vicinity of Burujird in Iran, some 140 miles southwest nf the holy city of Qom. His father, Ayatollah Shaykh Ali Muhammad, was a jurist who had taught at the Hawza at Najaf and had then become a marja al-taqlid ("source of emulation") at Burujird where he died. At Najaf the young Mur-



tada had dooe his intermediate studies under his father, hut at the advanced level his principal teacher was the great jurist Avatollah Abul-Qasim al-Khoi.

During this period, while still attending Khoi's lectures, Bu-

rujirdi became a mujuhid, (qualified to make independent juridical decisions), and taught at the Hawza. This was a feature of academic life at Najaf, where the most competent pupils of the leading ulema (religious scholars) were also teachers and scholars in their own right. He published a 10-volume

work which comprised detailed ontes, complete with his annotations and comments, of Khoi's lectures nn the monumental work of jurisprudence al-Urwa al-Wuthqa by Sayyid Muhammad Kadhim al-Yazdi. In 1991, after the Shia op-

rising in southern Iraq, Burujirdi was imprisoned along with 70 other ulema but was released after three days. It had been his custom to say his daily prayers in the Rawda, the sacred en-

closure of Imam Ali. The imam - the leader of the congregational prayers -- Sayyid Muhammad Ridha al-Khalkhali, had also been put in prison, but since he was not released Burujirdi was appointed in his place. The Baathist government,

aware nf the awe and esteem in which the Shia ulema were held by the people, had in the late spring of 1994 closed the Khadra Mosque in Najaf where Ayatollah Ali Seestani, today the principal marja in Iraq, was imam, on the pretext that essential repairs had to be carried out. They now asked Burujirdi ın give up his post at the Rawda of Imam Ali. He refused vehemently.

Two years ago he was beaten up and a little over a year ago an attempt was made on his life when a hand-grenade was

thrown at him. He suffered in- a marja, readily accessible to his juries to his legs and had to remain at home for two mnnths. He still would not give up leading the prayers, however, although thereafter he never went to the Rawda alnne.

What exacerbated matters even further was Burujirdi's decision to gain recognition as a marja and the subsequent publication, last year, of his own collection of fatwas, his risala amaliyya, in two volumes: Ayatollah Seestani had been virtually under house arrest for more than three years and the government was beet no promoting own candidate Sayyid Muhammad al-Sadr (who is prepared in co-operate with it but who lacks the credentials for heing a marja) as a rival to Seestani. The spectacle of Burujirdi as

Despite their abusive and threatening language he said that he would only agree if he received an nrder in writing from the government. He knew this would he unlikely since he had never got involved in any political activity.

On the evening of 21 April Burujirdi was shot dead, and two ters); died Najaf 21 April 1998.

walked back home from the ·Rawda after the evening prayers. Next morning there was a funeral procession in the Rawda in which hundreds of people took part and there Ayatnliah Sayyid Radhi al-Mar'ashi led the ritual funeral prayer over the deceased. Then the coffin was swiftly taken off in a car by security officers to the cemetery of Wadi al-Salam where the body was buried in haste with only Burujirdi's son, Shaykh Mahdi, and the gravediggers allowed to

passers-by were injured, as he

A. B. D. R. Eagle

Murtada al-Burufirdi, religious scholar, jurist and imam: born Najaf, Iraq 1931; married Shawkat bint Mirza Ali al-Na ini (one son, three daugh-

DEATHS

JEWELL: Peter Arundel, on 23 May 1998. Much loved by all his family. Funeral at Fen Ditton Parish Church, Cambridge, Monday I June, 3.30pm. Flowers to Cambridge Fu-neral Services, 617 Newmarket Road, Cambridge.

Cambridge.

RYCROFT: On 24 May 1998, peacefully, after a brief illness, Dr Charles Frederick, aged 83. Dearly loved husband, brother, father, stepfather and grandfather. Funeral service on Monday I June at 12.30pm at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Primrose Hill, NW3, followed by private cremation. Flowers, or donations if cremation. Flowers, or donations if desired, to Save the Children Fund,

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

c/o Leverton & Sons, 181 Haverstock Hill, NW3, telephone 0t 71-586 422t.

ents for Gazette BIRTHS. Amountaments for Gazette Birt 1-15, MARRIAGES & DEATH'S may be tele-phoned to 0171-293 2012 (24-hour an-swering machine 0171-293 2011) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £4.50 a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays

Professor John Alderson, former chief constable, Devon and Cornwall, 76; Mr Albert Booth, former gov-ernment minister, 70; Miss Faith Brown, impressionist, 51; Sir Gerald Cash, former Governor-General of the Bahamas, 81; Sir Edward du Cann, former chairman of Lonrho, 74; Mr Keith Darvill MP, 50; Mrs Liz Edgar, showjumper, 55; Sir Robert Evans, former chairman, British Gas, 71; Dame Thora Hird, actress, 87; Miss Sue Holderness, actress, 49; Miss Rachel Kempson, actress, 88; Dr Ashok Kumar MP, 42; Professor Gyorgy Ligeti, composer, 75; Mr Alan McLintock, former chairman, Woolwich Building Society, 73; Sir Patrick McNair-Wilson, former MP, 60 Mr Expl. McHamare and Tra-ing, writer and crea Births: William Pitt the Younger, statesman, t 759; lan Lancaster Flem-69; Mr Frank Middlemass, actor, 79;

Sir Philip Otton, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 65; Lord Renton of Mount Harry, former government minister, 66; Dr Charles Saumarez Smith, director, National Portrait Gallery, 44; Mr Wolfgang Schneiderhan, vi-olinist, 83; Mr Edward Seaga, former prime minister of Jamaica, 68; Mr Ju-lian Slade, composer, 68; Mr Richard Van Allan, operatic bass and direc-tor, 63; Sir Gordon Wolstenholme,

ing, writer and creator of "James Bond", 1908. Deaths: Jan van der Meer (Jan Vermeer van Haarlem the Younger), painter, buried 1705; Anne Brontë, novelist, 1849; Edward, Duke of Windsor, 1972; Eric Morecambe (Eric Bartholomew), comedian, 1984. On this day: the Zuider Zee became an inland lake (as the Ijsselmeer) after the dyke was built connecting Nurth Holland with Friesland, 1932; the Orient Express train, Paris-Bucharest, ceased running

after 78 years, 1961. Today is the Feast Day of St Germanus of Paris, St Ignatius of Rostov, St Justus ni Urgel, St Senator of Milan and St William of Gellone.

John Nabarro

A celebration for the life and work of Sir John Nabarro KB FRCP will be held in the Library of the Royal College of Physicians of London, 11 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, London NWt, on Monday 22 June 1998 at 4pm. Further information may be obtained from the College Secretary.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and The Dulce of Edinburgh attend a banques hosted by the Emperor and Empress of Japan at the Victoria and Albert Masseum, London SW7. The Dulce of Edinburgh, President Enseritus, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, attends a hunch at Ogilvy and Mather, Canary Whorf, London E14, The Prince of Wales, Patroa, Foundation for Interprated Medicine, attends a conference at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London SW1; and, as President of the Institute of Architecture, attends a reception to mark the launch of the Orange Millennium Competition, The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, attends the Conference "Dispatches from Dissort Zono," at Church House Conference Centre, London SW1; as President British Kmstung and Clothing Export Council, visits Corolings, London W1, and Won-

derful Wraps Limited, London SW11; and
28 President, Animal Health Trust, attenda a dinner at Grassenbury House, Cranbrook, Kent. The Duson of Kent, President, Royal National Lifeboat institution, attends the historic manning ceremony of the Royal National Lifeboat City of London II, at Dover, Kent.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mounted i
ment mounts the Oueen's Life Gua
Horsa Guards, Ilam: ist Battalion
Duke of Wellington's Regiment moun
Queen's Guard, at Buckingham P.
11.30am, band provided by the Colds
Guards.

The LAW REPORT resumes with the Law Term, on Tuesday 2 June.

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£32m in Game

Her conspication of goals. a all share \$22,870 where enthe computer software tales comes to the market A month after the trimpsshare were priced at the and of expectations. The a led by chairman bed an also co-founded (23me ing all of around half of or rusing 48.6 per cent We liber will retain a 27 64 hemistake, waret, \$55.5m. Be gill, bite i fathe that we might frase a one Mr Japlor said.

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TOCK MARKETS

Stocks tumble across the globe

in London and Stephen Vines in Hong Kong

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DIRECT

STOCK MARKETS the world over took a tumble yesterday amid growing concerns over the impact of the Asian crisis on corporate earnings.

The UK's blue-chip FTSE 100 index fell by over 100 points, knocking oearly £20hn from the value of the country's largest companies.

"It looks as if Asia could cause world economic slowdown", said Trevor Greetham. glohal strategist at Merrill

Negative market sectiment began on Tuesday in New York, where the Dow Jooes finished down 150 points amid jitters over hlue-chip corporate earnings. Stocks slid further when the Far East markets opened for business with Hong Kongoow predicted to enter recession for the first time since 1985

Hoog Koog's hive chip Hang Seng Index tumbled below the psychologically important 9,000 mark as share prices fell by 5.3 per cent, or 498

When London opened for business yesterday morning, shares fell by more than 95 points - about 1.5 per cent -- in the first 30 minutes. The FTSE continued to fall, touching an . -

ternooo, before recouping some of its earlier tosses and finishiog at 5870.2, down 100.5 points, or 1.7 per cent.

Companies with signficant Asian concerns were affected most. HSBC, the banking giant which owns the UK's Midland Bank, was one of the worst hit. HSBC fioished the day at 1531p, down over 100p. Standard Chartered, the Loodonhased international banking group, finished down 40.5p at 72p. Wall Street was sharply low-

er - down around 100 points at lunchtime yesterday, while the US bood market was geoerally higher.

Mr Greetham said: "Bond markets are doing well, and equity markets are suffering. That is usually a sign that the world economy is contracting."

Io Hoog Koog, where traders were poised for further falls today, investors were taken aback by a statement made hy Tuog Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's chief executive, oo Tuesday night. Mr Chee-hwa told foreign correspondents that growth in the region would "fall substantially and indeed may even be oegative".

Howard Georges, the vicechairman of the South China Securities broking bouse, said: "This comment came out of the hlue. He didn't seem to offer any hope about the economy". Mr Tung's statement also



watches screens in Hong Kong as the markets slump yesterday

the previous week by Sir Donald Isang in which he insisted that he had oo data to support a lowering of the government's 3.5 per cent ecocomic growth estimate for 1998. However first quarter economic growth figures will be released tomorrow which could show that the ecocomy has gooe into recession for the first time since

Yesterday Sir Donald said: "We already had a very rough last quarter in the end of 1997, we are having a very rough quarter in the first part of 1998 as well -- wwe have to face up to these realities".

The government's economic growth forecasts are now entirely out of line with almost all private sector estimates. Yesall-day low of 5836.9 in mid-af- flatly contradicted a speech terday HSBC Securities lowered its 1998 growth forecast ures were released showing a from 2 to 1 per cent, Two finance houses, J.P.Morgao and Daiwa, are already forecasting oegative growth. The OECD predicts that the economy will expand by no more than 0.9 per ceot. Eveo the most optimistic forecast, from Bank of America, is 0.5 per cent lower than the official figure.

On top of the gloom about economic growth figures, pessimism was fueled in Hong Koog by the release of retail. sales figures for March showing a 13 per ceot downturn as unemployment rose to a 14year high of 3.9 per cent.

Meanwhile, in the all important property market which underpins the stock exchange, there were indicators of a further slump in business when figoear 19 per ceot fall in property loans. Transactions in the property market have slumped to a ten year low. Anthony Cheung, HSBC Securities chief ecocomist, said that hopes for an improved economic performance in the secood half of

activity across the border in

mainland China.

Iovestors were also deressed by other news from the region where Korea entered a declines' two day general strike in protest at lay offs, uncertainty over Indonesia continued and the Japanese Yen continued to fall, closing in the Far East as 137.7 to the United States dol-

Sterling strengthens on fears of rate rise

By Michael Harrison and Les Paterson

THE RECENT spate of weakness in sterling appeared to be drawing to an end yesterday as growing City interest rate fears pushed the pouod above DM2.90.

Hawkish comments from a member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) coupled with a perceived weakening of the CBI's "the next move should be down" stance on rates re-awakened fears of an interest rate hike following oext week's MPC meeting.

After a weak start, the pound gained almost a pfennig against the mark following a speech by Mervyn King, the Bank's chief economist and executive director, at the Building Societies annual confer-

Sterling finished the day at DM2.905, up from 2.898 on

Mr King, a "hawk" who voted for a rate rise at April's MPC meeting, said domestically generated inflatioo was "significantly higher than RPIX inflation [the measure of inthe year were based on revived flation targeted by the Governmeot]". Mr King warned: "Inflation will start to rise above the target unless domestically generated inflation

He added: "The earnings figures released earlier this month - which showed that average earnings in the economy grew by 4.9 per ceot and in the private sector by no less than lar. Japanese stock prices were 5.6 per cent -- were undoubtalso down by 1.4 per cent at edly disappointing. To hit the inflation target those rates of

earnings growth will have to fall back."

Mr King said that even though the MPC predicted a slowdown in the economy, it might oot be sufficient in itself to hold back inflation.

Meanwhile, the Confederatioo of British Industry (CBI) indicated a slight softening over its stance on interest rates by warning that the country could oot afford to trade "short-term gain for long-term

Addressing the organisation's annual dinner in Londoo last night, the CBI president Sir Colin Marshall called on the Government out to ease up in the fight against inflation.

He also gave a rare acknowledgement that the strong pound, while hurting manufacturers, exporters and inward investors, was also good news for importers, retailers and holidaymakers.

Speaking after the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, had addressed the dinner. Sir Colin said the CBI had been encouraged by the way the Government had seen eye to eye on the oeed for stability, sustainability and ecocomic development.

But he added: "Central to our largely mutual philosophy is the need to combat and control inflation, ahead of almost all other economic considerations. "We simply cannot afford to trade short term gain for long-term pain."

Despite yesterday's developments, most City ecocomists still believe the outcome will be "no change" after oext week's two-day MPC meeting, which will start oo Wednesday.

Cellnet reveals personal tariffs

By Peter Thal Larsen

CELLNET, the UK's second largest mobile phone operator, will today unveil initiatives inteoded to make up the ground it has lost on its competitors.

Chief among these is a service which retrospectively adjusts phooe users' hills to the most efficient tariff according to how much they use the phone.

The offer, which is part of a £20m marketing campaign which kicks off today, allows mobile users to sign up to a particular tariff, secure in the knowledge that they will receive a refund on their hill if it turns out that another tariff would have been better suited.

Peter Erskine, chief executive, said the rebates, which will be calculated oo a quarterly basis, were likely to amount to "double digit perceotages" off many Cellnet users' bills.

As part of its "First Cellnet" campaign, the company plans to dispense with locking new users into fixed term contracts, though discounts will he available for customers who sign up for longer periods. It will also offer extra discouots for oumbers which callers use frequently.

Mr Erskine said the campaign would help Cellnet attract new users as well as hold on to existing customers. He said he aimed to reduce the rate of churn in its customer base from 30 per cent to close to 20 per cent.

At the same time, Cellnet will cut call prices and launch a "prepaid" mobile phone.

Cellnet has been a loser in the hattle of the mobile phone operators recently, signing up just 300,000 new customers last year compared to more than 400,000 for Vodafooe, Orange and Ooe2One.

Three £32m in Game

By Nigel Cope Associate City Editor

THREE entrepreneurial brothers will share £32.8m when Game, the computer software retailer, comes to the market next month, after the company's shares were priced at the top end of expectations. The trio, led by chairman Neil Taylor who co-founded Game in 1990, will sell around half of their existing 48.6 per cent stake. They will retain a 22.65 per cent stake, worth £33.5m.

"We won't have a large binge but we might have a small one," Mr Trylor said. We will certainly have some sort of celebration."

The float continues a remarkable run of entrepreneurial success for the three Listen Without Prejudice album there. The oldest brother, 43-David was managing director year-old Chris, is no slouch



Nick Warren-Smith, Game finance director, Paul Lloyd-Roach, chief executive, and Neil Taylor, chairman, celebrate their fortune outside one of their company's stores

of the Tozer Kelmsley and Millberne motor dealership group in the 1970s.

While Neil, 37, has been running Game, his 40-year-old brother Carey has been running the Metropolis recording studio in Chiswick, London. The studio is used by many top artists, including George Michael, who recorded his Listen Without Prejudice album

either. He co-runs a company called Origin Products which designs toys for many of the world's top toy manufacturers such as Mattel, Disney and

price the shares trade on a his-

toric multiple of 25.3. The

"We didn't have any money to start off with. We all made our own way," says Mr Taylor. Game's shares were priced at 200p yesterday, valuing the business at £148m. At that

company said the float had tions and was heavily oversubscribed.

could support a Game outlet. The shares start trading

proved popular with institu-

Game is raising £8.5m oet of expenses and the proceeds will be used to fund store expansion. Game opened its 66th store on Saturday and has identified 150 towns which

Investment column, page 24

EMI 'will stay 'Means tests independent' for pension'

By Nigel Cope Associate City Editor

EMI's chairman, Sir Colin Southgate, yesterday launched a stirring defence of the British music group's independence and said it need not become another trophy asset like Rolls-Royce and the Savoy that would

fall to an overseas buyer. He denied that EMI had beeo jilted at the altar by Seagram, the American drinks and music group which has since tied the knot with PolyGram in a \$10.6bn deal and said EMI

could be successful on its own. "EMI is still number three in the industry (behind Seagram-PolyGram and Sony), we are still independent and we still have the best figures in the industry. We have been around for 100 years and have a strong hack catalogue and strong local rosters of artists. We should he jolly proud of EML Britain doesn't' have too many companies that are oumber three in a global market. We still aim to be oumber one."

He said he had no plans to

step down as chairman eveo though a re-shuffle at the board followed comments by him that he would prefer to cootinue as non-executive given his position at chairman of the Royal Opera House. "I'm only 59 and I'm not going to let EMI down after 14 years of grind, am I?"

He was speaking as EMI,

whose roster of artists spans the Spice Girls, The Verve and Radiohead, reported a sharp fall in profits caused by the strength of sterling, the Far Eastern crisis and the slowdown in worldwide music sales. Profits fell from £380.5m to £307m before exceptionals. However Sir Colio pointed out that EMI's share of the worldwide music market has riseo from 14.3 per cent to 14.8 per cent. It US market share has risen

from 9.7-12 per cent. EMI took a £43m exceptional charge last year for the closure of its head office in New York and the £12m pay-off to Jim Fifield, head of EMI Mosic. It also showed a £101m gain, most of which related to the disposal of its HMV retail chain.

By Andrew Verity

A BODY commissioned by the Government to report on the state of pension provision in the UK is set to urge ministers to consider a form of means-testing for the Basic State Pension.

The independent Pensions Provisioo Group is warning that pensioner inequality will rise massively over the oext two decades if the Government goes oo raising the basic state pension only in line with prices. In a report to be published

in the next two weeks, the group will set out a means by which rights to the Basic State Pension could be targeted oo the poorest pensioners.

Tom Ross, chairman of the group, said: "Pensiooers now get much the same whether they are well-off or poor. One has to ask whether it would be better to divert some resources to those who really oeed it."

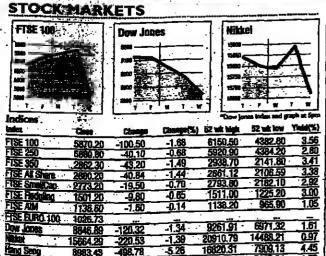
The report is the most comprehensive review of pension provision undertakeo and is likely to he very influential in the Government's programme

of welfare reform. Mr Ross said ooe reform

could restrict rights to a higher level of basic state pensioo - perhaps £100 a week - to those whose lifetime earnings are too low for a decent private pension. The rights of those on higher incomes would correspoodiogly he reduced. It would be based oo lifetime income. The report is also set to explode the myth that a 'demographic timehomh' will make state beoefits unaffordable as the retired population increases over the oext three decades from 10 million to 15 million. "By the middle of the next century, the proportion of GDP we speod oo state pensions will be less than today because the larger oumher of recipieots will be offset by the tower levet of henefits," Mr

Ross said However, the group will report that restoring the link between the basic state pension and earnings, abolished in 1979, would boost the cost of state pensions by a quarter within

Yesterday in the markets



INTEREST RATES UK 18 year gill US long boad MAIN PRICE CHANGES

CURRENCIES OTHER INDICATORS *255pm · Gent source: Bloomberg www.bloomberg.com/uk

TOURIST RATES Austria (schillings) delaiom (francs) 58.01 Carrada (\$) 2.3205 Cyprus (pounds 0.8241 Deramerk (krone)

10.78 Finland (marida) 8,5940 France (francs) 8.4121 Germany (marks) 2.8144 481,45 Hong Kong (5) 12.29 treland (punts) 1.1128 Indian (rupos 62.08 israel (sheke 5.4955 taly (Fa) 2782 Japan (yen) 220,87 Matavsta (ringotts

Malta (Ilra) Medcan (nuevo peso) 12.84 etherlands (guilders) 3.1626 New Zealand (\$) 2.9503 Norway (krone) 11.95 Portugal (escudos 285.71 Saudi Arabia (rials) 5,9604 Singapore (\$) 2.5630 Spain (pesetas) 238.11 South Africa (rands) 8,0602 Sweden (krone) 12.36 Switzerland (trancs) 2.3409 57.47 401873 USA (S) 1.5979

Rates for indication purposes only Source: Thomas Cook

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

Anglian waits on regulator

LIKE all utilities, Anglian Water is on a regulatory treadmill. No sooner has one review been completed and digested by the markets than the next one looms into view. With water companies the problem this time round is all the worse because Ian Byatt, the water watchdog, has decided to start the review process early. So investors are now already trying to guess what decisions he will take about a new pricing structure that will oot be introduced until 2000.

This is all a bit harsh oo Anglian Water, which has generally shown that it can combine a good level of service - its leakage rates are the lowest in the country - with a decent return to shareholders. Yesterday it reported a 4 per cent increase in pre-tax profits and hiked the dividend by 13 per cent. Even though the market responded positively the shares edged up half a penny to 865.5p in a falling market - most analysts agree it will be hard to form a clear idea of the stock's future potential until Mr Byatt gives a clearer idea of his intentions.

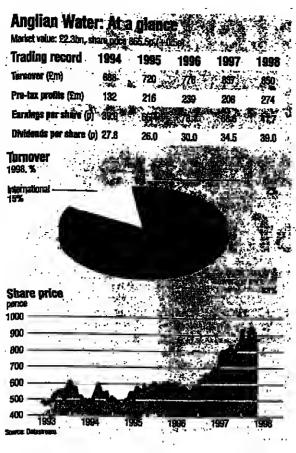
The big question is whether the regulator will favour the both, leaving shareholders squeezed in the middle.

Given the sensitivity of the issue, it's not surprising that Anglian was giving little away about the scope for future cost-cutting. Plans to return 8 per cent of its capital - about £180m at the current price-to shareholders is also restrained given that it will take Anglian's gearing to just 80 per cent, from 73 per cent at the moment.

With a dividend yield of 4.5 should be attractive for any investor looking for income and a defensive positioo against a possible market downturn. In share price terms, however, tbey will just mark time until the regulator shows his hand.

Airtours loss can bring gain

IT WOULD prohably be better if Airtours didn't report interim profits at all. In a husiness which is so seasocal that all its profits are made in a few mooths io the second half of the year, the travel group's first-half figures are usually meaningless. But that doesn't stop the market from scrutinising them for signs of what is to



So wheo Airtours reported yesterday that pre-tax losses in the six mooths to for Game March had almost doubled to £23.2m, its shares prompt-

What rattled investors was Airtours' admission that consumer lohby, which wants its Scandinavian operations had lost £7.7m, largely be-

> and Poland, where Airtours is starting a new business from scratch, also cootributed to the shortfall.

In spite of this, Airtours reckoos other parts of the business will make up the differeoce, and analysts' fullyear profit forecasts have low suit when trading in the remained largely unchanged shares begins oext week. at around £139m.

Demand in the United Kingdom is rohust, and Airper ceot, Anglian shares tours is making good progress in other European markets, including Germany.

pany should cootinue to The product mix is broadly the pursue its strategy of debusiness. A big acqoisitioo "no frills" lay-out, Game op-io the United States would erates from larger outlets with out issuing shares to pay for saturation point with 152 a deal if it comes off.

Oo a forward PE ratio of 21 the shares trade roughly in line with the receotly floated Thomson Travel

discounts on holidays to the ones trumpeted by Thomsoo - without the same amount of hassle. Yesterday's fall represcots a good buying

Timely float

ly lost 7 per cent of their val-ue, crashing 35p to 486.5p. THINGS may be a little patchy on the high street at the moment but no one seems to have told the computer games retailers which have been havmeotal lohby, which wants more cash for investment. to spend £8m trying to end delays at its Premiair sub-Investments in Finland growing and the City has watched the zooming share price of Electronics Boutique, the main quoted rival.

The institutional placing at Game has already proved a success at 200p per share, The question oow is whether smaller investors should fol-

The issue has certainly not been priced cheaply. At these levels the shares trade on a historic rating of 25.

While the two companies are bracketed together, there Looking ahead, the com- are important differences. same, as is pricing, but while veloping a global travel EB's stores are smaller with a. help that cause no end, and a more design-led interior. its chief executive, David Analysts also point at that Crossland, does oot rule while EB is already reaching stores Game has just 66 so still

has plenty of scope for growth. Dixons offers a potential competitive threat. Game points out that the small size of Dixons stores and the range What's more, they offer of merchandise it has to carprivate shareholders similar ry means it will oot be able to be authoritative in its offering.

At 200p the shares offer reasonable prospects. If they go to a healthy premium oo 3 June they may start to look to expensive. But worth a look.

Thorn in complete overseas sell-off

By Nigel Cope Associate City Editor

THORN, the struggling Radio Rentals group whose shares have halved since it was demerged from EMI, has put all its overseas businesses up for sale as part of a radical restructuring designed to improve returns to shareholders.

In addition to the American operations, which were put up for sale earlier this year, the company yesterday said it will sell its Scandinavian operations, its Asian interests and its business-to-business division, which operates in 15 European countries.

The sale of the US business which trades under the Rent-acenter and U-Can-Rent names, is at the shortlist stage and should be completed in the next few months, the company said.

The proceeds of the disposals are expected to be returned to shareholders rather than reinvested in the rentals business, which is in long-term decline. Thorn plans to con-centrate its energies on its UK Radio Rentals and DER busi-

Thorn's chief executive, Steve Russell, said the whole break-up process could take up to 18 months. Thorn has made £40m of provisions to cover the restructuring and the costs of pulling out of certain product lines like personal computers and cookers.

However, there were few clues on a possible bid for the whole of Thorn following an announcement last month that it was in preliminary discussions that might lead to an offer. The approach is understood to have been from the secretive Barclay

"No formal proposal has yet been received and shareholders should not assume that an offer will be forthcoming," the company said. Negotiations are still continuing but are proceeding slowly due to the legal complications in the US, where Thorn is facing litigation

over rental agreements. Analysts were cool on the . prospects for a full-scale bid for the whole of Thorn and did not growth and they are back-ped-

feel the break-up would create alling on Crazy George's." much additional value.

SG Securities put a total break-up value of 215p per share on the business compared to yesterday's closing

price of 204p, up 0.5p.

Another analyst said. "I wouldn't be surprised if there is oothing left of Thorn in a year's time." With the overseas business being sold and the UK businesses shrinking, the rump of Thorn would be vulnerable to a bid by financial buyers or a management buy-out.

"The UK business is a pig in a poke," ooe said. "New products haven't delivered sales

Thorn now plans to extend the lower priced Crazy George's format to just 160 outlets compared to previous forecasts of 250.

The comments came as Thorn reported a 31 per cent fall in full year pre-tax profits to £118m caused by poor sales in the first half and the impact of the insurance premium tax. Thom admitted that sales in its Radio Rentals outlets were falling faster than those at Granada, the rival chain.

Thorn plans to expand its DER Direct business which operates via a telephone sales cen-

Energis may bid for new mobile licences

By Peter Thai Larsen

ENERGIS, the telecom operator which has built a network by laying its lines along the National Grid's power cables, is interested in bidding for the oew generatioo of mobile phone licences which will be sold off by the government next summer.

Mike Grabiner, chief executive, said Energis was talking to NM Rothschild, the merchant bank which is advising the government oo the sale, about the licences. "It would enable us to deliver more broadband data services," he said.

However, be stressed that many details were not yet clear. "We're trying to find out more,"

The Government confirmed earlier this month that it planned to auction licences for the next generation of mobile phones also known as Universal Mobile Telephony Services – in the summer of 1999. The phones will allow faster rates of data transmission than are currently possible, making it possible for users to surf the Internet, access their bank account and evenwatch real-time video from their mobile handset

Energis is already offering similar high-speed services through its existing fixed network. "A licence would make an excellent additioo to Energis' broadband capability," said Chris Godsmark, telecoms analyst at Hendersoo Crosthwaite, adding that Energis would probably link up with an existing mobile phone operator to launch a joint hid.

The news emerged as Energis reported a 73 per ceot increase in turnover to £168m for the year to March - ahead of analysts' expectations. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation were £16.1m. compared to a £14.3m loss in

Energis also announced that it now has the technology to operate private data networks on behalf of its clients. This allows them to dispense with buying expensive equipment to run longdistance oetworks such as

corporate intranets. Energis has gained access to the technology, which can offer the capacity equivalent to thousands of modems in a single box. through its alliance with the US telecom equipmeot manufac-

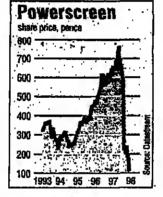
Powerscreen's pre-tax loss forecast increases to £65m

POWERSCREEN International's prospects took a further blow yesterday after it increased arrearlier pre-tax loss forecast by a factor of more

The Belfast-based engiocering group, already the sub-ject of a Serious Fraud Office inquiry into its Matbro subsidiary after a profit warning in January, said that it would make a loss before tax of £65m in 1997.

"People were expecting another warning hut the size of this is surprising - it's a £100m turnaround in a year," Philip Molloy, an equity analyst at ABN AMRO in Duhlin said. Powerscreen's survival in its current state is now in doubt."

In January, the company announced accounting irregularities at its Matbro Ltd subsidiary and warned that it



expected a pre-tax loss of £10m, compared with a £42.4m profit the previous year.

"It has become apparent that the profitability in aggregate of the other group busioesses has falleo short of the management's expectations by approximately 10 million," the

Powerscreen said the £65m loss would include £58.6m losses from the Matbro division, including a further £8m trading losses and an estimated £4m in professional fees resulting from the investigation into Mathro. Earlier this month, Powerscreen said it would continue to co-operate fully with regulators

following an announcement year." that the Serious Fraud Office planned to investigate accounting irregularities at Matbro. The irregularities involved the mispricing of machines, unauthorised discounts offered to customers, and inaccurate and misleading recording and discounting of bills of exchange and warranty costs, the com-

The pre-tax loss would also include writing off £11.5m of assets, and £14m for changes in

accounting policies, it said. Some £20m of the overall loss for the financial year could relate to prior financial years, it added.

"This is the first time they've said this and it's a very worrying development," said Mr Molloy. "Previously, they said the losses were all related to this Other analysts in the Dublin

market said a buy-out of Powerscreen looked unlikely. Analysts estimate Power-

screen's current capitalisation at around £100m.

On Tuesday the stock dived by more than 21 per cent in Londoo after a large parcel of stock was sold at a substantial discount to the prevailing market price. The shares started the year at 608p. Yesterday they closed down 23p at 110.5p. | turer Nortel.

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287.7m (267.8m) 16.9m (16.0m) 14.8p (15.0p) 3.4p (3.0p) 850.1m (837.1m) 274.2m (208.0m) 41.7p (68.6p) 39.0p (34.5p) 0.563m (0.967m) 0.009m I(0.058m) 0.11p (-0.71p) nil (nil) 886 Design (S) 2.93bm (0.188m) 0.282m (-0.293m) 0.05p (-0.24p) all (nll) 580.0m (B40.0m) 44.7p (55.7p) 16.6p (15.05p) 8.6bn (8.3bn) 7.947m (8.598m) 12.3p (11.6p) 4.8p (4.0p) 0.830m (0.448m) 2.9p (1.5p) 1.0p (1.0p) 307.1m (380.5m) 24.6p (26.5p) 16.0p (15.0p) 3.6be (3.4bn) ENG Group (F)+ Friends Ivery & Siene (F) 15.8m (20.5m) 3.389m (6.891m) 5.43p (14.40p) nii (nii)

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1.249bp (1.332bm) 118.2m (171.0m) 20.9p (26.0p) - (-

_&G sells Australian unit

T.EGAL & GENERAL said it is a husiness with many would record a £316m pre-tax profit in its 1998 accounts from the sale of its Austrian business to Colonial vesterday. The proceeds of the sale, net of costs, are estimated at £333m in cash. The sale is conditional on regulatory approval, which L&G said it expected to receive by 30 June.

L&G said that after debt repayment, the net proceeds of the sale would be retained to further its organic growth. "Legal and General Australia strengths which has performed well in receot years," said L&G's chief executive, David Prosser, "However, consolidation is taking place in the Australian marketplace and we believe that our shareholders are best served by exiting that market."

Colonial said it would pay A\$892m (£350m) for Legal & General Australia. Finance analysts and brokers suggested the purchase was expensive, but Colonial's group managing di-

buy would be earnings-pershare positive within a year, and lead to major cost savings. Colonial had paid 2.5 times book value, compared with insurance industry average for takeovers of 1.8 times, analysts

Colonial, a former mutual group, listed on the Australian stock exchange in May last year. The purchase lifts Colonial two places to become Australia's third largest insurer in terms of annual premiums.

Michael Hart quits Foreign

MICHAEL HART, the former head of the investment trust trade body who has become embroiled in cootroversy in recent months, resigned from another City post yesterday. The former director-gener-

al of the Association of Investment Trust Companies (AFTC) has quit as a director of the Foreign & Colonial Emerging Markets Investment Trust. Last year, Mr Hart, for-

merly a manager of Foreign &

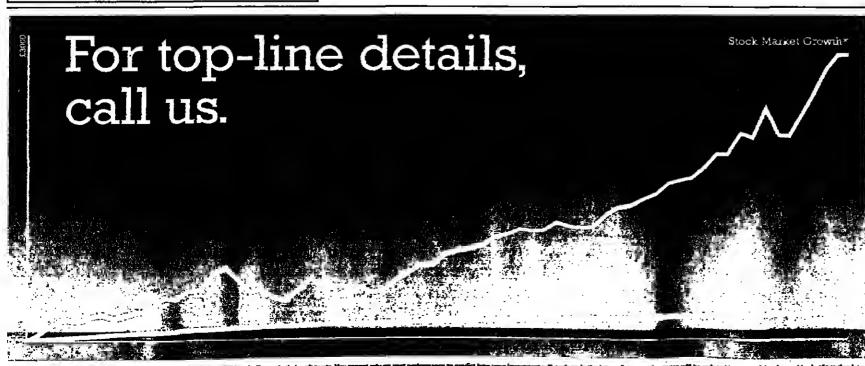
trust, became embroiled in a corporate governance row with Hermes Investment Managemeot. Hermes said that boards of investment trust companies should become more independent of their fund managers. In particular, Hermes said the practice of allowing employees of fund managers to also sit on the board of an investment trust and judge fund managers' performance could lead to a

conflict of ioterest. Hermes, together with City

its shareholdings to oust the entire board of the Braziliao Smaller Companies Investment Trust at the end of January. Mr Hart had been chairman of the trust at the same time as working for Foreign & Colonial, the fund manager. Foreign & Colonial later

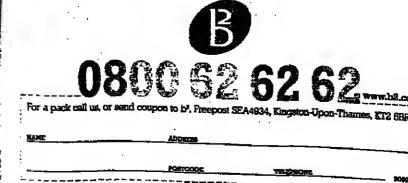
barred employees from sitting on the board of any investment trust whose funds it managed. Foreign & Colonial Emerging Markets said Mr Hart had

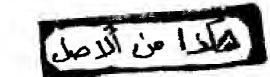
left to pursue other interests. The stock market can boost your long-term savings in a way that an



ordinary savings account never can. And be can show you how you can access the growth potential of the stock market but without risking any of the money you put in. Full details are in the ba information pack. So call or send the

The Advanced Savings Account from b2.







OUTLOOK ON DELAYS TO BA'S AMERICAN LINK IONICA'S PROBLEMS AND WHY NEWCASTLE'S HEAD-HUNTING WILL BE HARD

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In the end, Ayling may have to take off

BOB Ayling thinks that the staff turnover more people to leave the airline. In case you were wondering, he is not about to take his own advice and quit the chief executive's post for a plum job in the Government. He may be a fan of Tony Blair but right now he likes BA more and he has reassured his chairman of that.

Most of us would reckon that a company which cannot hang on to its staff is a poor one whereas the company that noone wants to leave is a good employer. And so BA is. It's just that Mr Ayling thinks it can be made even better if he can just ease out the people he no longer wants and

bring in those he does. It is a familiar story. In order to achieve its target of recruiting 15,000 staff into customer friendly jobs over the next three years whilst limiting the net increase in the workforce to 7,500, BA will have to roughly double its rate of natural wasteage from 2 per cent to 4 per cent.

This is a tall order for a business where the perk of free flights goes a long way to encouraging staff loyalty. But BA is resigned to throwing money at the problem and those who can be prised away by carly retirement schemes can expect very generous settlement terms.

Unfortunately, this process of shrinking the airline while simultaneously growing it is an expensive business. Thus BA contrived to report a 10 per cent fall in profits last year despite achieving £250m worth of savings through its Business Efficieocy Plan.

BA says the decline in profitability was at British Airways is too low so he wants due to currency losses and one-off strike costs. But it rather makes the point that running in order just to stand still is not enough when external turbulence can still knock you badly off course.

The City wonders when all these efficiency gains are going to start falling through to the bottom line. In the meantime the shares continue to underperform and the goal of £1 bn in pre-tax profits to match the £1 bn of efficiency gains BA has promised looks as far away as ever.

There is, of course, one way that BA's profus could lift off and that is if it finally gets regulatory approval for its alliance with American Airlines. Forget all that talk about increased competition across the Atlantic squeezing BA's margins. Even if BA/AA do sacrifice 300 slots, their combined market dominance will produce big profits.

However, the alliance is still not a done deal. BA and AA are about to celebrate the second anniversary of signing the deal and even with a following wind it could not now be launched until summer, 1999. If the alliance is not cleared for take-off this autumn, Mr Ayling may well be on the telephone to Mr Blair,

Breakdown in communications

THE TELECOMS company Ionica inhabits two parallel worlds. In one, customers cannot sign up fast enough for its revolutionary wireless telephone service,

their existing hill and a funky black box oo the outside wall. In fact, lonica's problem is not lack of demand but lack of capacity.

In the other world, investors cannot sell their Ionica shares quickly enough. It has been one of the stock market's all-time duff investments. In fact, the question is not if but when the company will go out

More and more frequently these days the two worlds collide and Ionica's management is forced to explain to a bemused staff why a company that was launched with such high hopes is now regarded as the parish of the Square Mile.

The answer lies in relative expectations and, in the City, the expectations of Ionica are oot good. Yesterday the shares drifted down another 11.5p to close at 24.5p compared with an issue price of 390p less than a year ago when SBC Warburg Dillon Read brought Ionica to market. Even though there is 50p a share of cash in the business, it is trading at less than the break-up value of its assets.

And yet Ionica's basic proposition remains a good one. It has targeted the local loop (known to the rest of us as the domestic market) where, as BT proves every day, profits are easier to earn than in longdistance. What's more lonica's technology allows it to sign up customers for a

fraction of the cost of the cable companies. Where lonica has come unstuck is in the execution. It underestimated the complexity and cost of rolling out its network software ready in time to meet initial customer demand. The result is that roll-out is at least two years behind schedule, customer connections are not being achieved at the rate promised and the banks have said no more money until new equity investment is brought into the business.

A further question mark over Ionica is whether it will miss out on the explosion in data traffic because of the nature of its technology and the decision to concentrate on domestic not business customers. This remains an unknown.

The funding gap is also not known with any precision. But Ionica will need to find at least another £700m on top of the £600m already raised to complete the network. Or someone else will.

The prospect of massive dilution helps explain why the share price has taken it so badly. But at the same time it makes Ionica an interesting proposition for a big foreign brother like say Deutsche Telecom. If Ionica can find the right kind of strategic investor, then they will be able to pick up a business that already covers one in eight UK homes for a fraction of the price investors paid last July. It will be brutal for existing shareholders but all may not be lost just yet for the company itself.

Antics in the boardroom

NEWCASTLE United are going to be speoding the close season in the transfer

drawn by the promise of 10 per cent off of base stations and it did not have the market. They already needed some new talent on the field. But now they are also looking to hire a couple of non-executive directors, one of whom can act as chair-

man of the plc. Yesterday's departure of the midfield duo of Sir Terence Harrison and John Mayo demonstrates that if corporate governance did indeed score a victory in March when Douglas Hall and Freddie Shepherd were eased out, it was at best

a pyrrhic onc. Shareholders and fans (largely one in the same at Newcastle) might wonder what

Although the two men whose antics in a Spanish brothel caused so much angst, have gone, little else has changed. Cameron Hall Developments, Mr Hall's company, and Shepherd Offshore, still control a majority of the shares and their cominces sit on the board.

Neither man looks in any hurry to reduce that shareholding to under 50 per ceot - the promise that was dangled before shareholders in March. Meanwhile, there is just one independent non-executive left on the board - and that is the accident prone Denis Cassidy. This board, ladeo down as it is with Hall and Shepherd nominees or employees, is the one that will now seek a new chairman.

The company says rather smugly that it will need to be someone who passes the "smell test" If anything, it is the candidates who are more likely to turn their ooses up.

BA plans more jobs as profits fall sharply

By Michael Harrison

BRITISH AIRWAYS yesterday shrugged off a sharp fall in profits by hinting that approval for its loog-delayed alliance with American Airlines is in sight and unveiling fresh plans to expand the workforce and increase efficiency savings.

Bob Ayling, chief executive, said BA had identified further efficiency measures worth £300m - putting it on target to Tachieve £1bo of cost savings by 2000. He also said the workforce would increase by 7,500 to just under 70,000 over the next three years.

Mr Ayling said that BA was now in the "final straight" in its long battle to gain regulatory clearance from London, Washington and Brussels for the tieup with American. But he conceded that even with regu-

latory approval by this autumn the alliance would not now be launched until oext summer three years after the agreement was signed.

The BA chief executive also

brushed aside reports that he was thinking of quitting the airline to take up a senior position within the Blair government. "I have not received any offer, I don't expect to receive one and I am not seeking one," he said. "The chairman Sir Colin Marshall) has asked if he could count oo me staying at BA and I said he could."

Mr Ayling was speaking as BA announced a 10 per cent fall in pre-tax profits last year to £580m. The strength of sterling knocked £200 off profits and last summer's cabin crew

strikes cost a further £125m. The airline also lost "tens of millions of pounds" because of



Sir Colin Marshall and Bob Ayling of BA, which was badly hit by the strength of sterling and a cabin crew strike

the terrorist attack on Luxor, the decision to stop flying to Nigeria and the security stand-off at Paris airport over BA's insistence that its check-in area be moved

away from that of Air Algerie. But these losses were offset by a £115m saving from lower fuel prices and higher than expected efficiency savings.

The efficiency measures so far implemented by BA - mainly outsourcing and renegotiat-

ing wage deals - saved £250m last year and are expected to save £500m in the current year.

By 2000 they will be contributing £700m in savings. But BA has identified scope for a further £250m in savings at its subsidiary airlines and in areas like overseas ground handling, distribution, telesales and travel

agents' commissions. As part of its expansion plans BA intends to take on an-

other 15,000 employees in the next three years in customer service, cabin crew, flight deck

and telesales. At the same time, it will shed about 7,500 jobs in areas such as ground handling and engiocering but also cabin staff and check-in staff through voluntary redundancy programmes.

This means that staff turnover - currently running at about 2 per cent a year - will

oced to double. BA set aside £127m in 1996 to cover redundancy charges, of which it

has about £55m left. Despite the latest obstacle put in the path of the AA alliance by the US Justice Department. Mr Ayling said: "I am hopeful that there is now a basis for agreement which will satisfy the various regulators and the

two companies." Outlook, this page

Nationwide scraps fees for more than 30 services

largest building society, is to in a statement. abolish fees for more than 30 services, a move which it reckons could save its customers more than £12m a year.

The building society said that from 1 June it would no longer charge customers for obtaining duplicate statements. stopping cheques, changing building insurance to an alternative provider, or using LINK cash machines.

"Nationwide is underlining its commitment to make membership of the society mean more, in a way which tess it apart from its plc competi-

NATIONWIDE, the UK's tors", the building society said

Brian Davis, Nationwide's chief executive, said: "As a building society we are not driven to maximise the profit we make out of our customers at every turn. We can therefore not only listen to these concerns [customer concerns] but act on them".

Nationwide, which has seeo many of its competitors convert to banks and float on the stock market, remains committed to the principal of mutual own-

The building society is confident its members will vote to retain its mutual status this summer, according to company sources.

The society is facing a second attempt to force it to convert to a plc at its annual general meeting of members on July 23. Two demutualisatioo candidates are seeking election

Last year, Michael Hardern failed in his attempt to be elected to the board on a demutualisation ticket. Undeterred, Mr Hardern has chosen to stand again this year. Andrew Muir is the other demutualisation candidate standing for

Talks resume on IMF's \$43bn rescue package to Indonesia

By Stephen Vines

TALKS on the resumption of International Monetary Fund (IMF) aid to Indonesia began again yesterday forcing the new government and its international creditors to find a way of meeting the IMF's demands without sparking off more rioting.

The cost of recent events has yet to be calculated, but Nomura Securities Singapore forecasts a 10 per cent economic decline, largely based on the attacks on the ethnic Chinese business community.

Leading the IMF team is Hubert Neiss, the fund's Asia-Pacific director. He said, "Political stability is extremely important for economic

progress". B.J. Habibie, the new presideot, has pledged to hooour the tough terms of the IMF's \$43bn rescue package, but has not indicated how.

Moreover, targets agreed with the IMF in April are looking increasingly academic. Inflation is running at 50 per cent, trading on the stock exchange has ground to a halt, aside from a rush out of shares associated with Subarto family interests,

and independent estimates put private sector debt at \$80bn. British lenders, primarily HSBC Holdings, have some \$4.3bn at risk.

Because it is unclear how long President Habibie will be able to cling to power, the IMF is breaking its practice of shunning talks with opposition leaders. Mr Neiss will meet Amien Rais and Megawati Sukarnoputri, the two most prominent, as well as the trade union leader Muchtar Pakpahan, who has just been released from jail and is a prominent opponent of the

IN BRIEF

Eastern Gas is cleared of allegations, says regulator

OFGAS yesterday said its investigation into Eastern Natural Gas (Retail) Ltd has cleared the company of allegations of fraudulent behaviour and added that it will not confirm a provisional order placed on Northern Electric earlier in the year. Ofgas investigated both Eastern Natural Gas and Northern Electric following media reports alleging high-pressure doorstep sales techniques. "Eastern has given formal voluntary undertakings to the regulator that it will improve its methods of recruiting and training sales representatives and the way in which it cooducts after-sales audits," Ofgas said. It added that it has asked Eastern to review the payment methods available to customers io the North-west of England,

Ofgas said it has also reviewed the action taken by Northern Electric following the imposition of a provisional order on the company in March. The remedial action takeo by the company has satisfied Ofgas that it is not necessary for the order to be confirmed, it said. Commenting on the two investigations, Ofgas director general of gas supply, Claire Spottiswoode said: "Our latest figures show that the number of complaints on doorstep selling peaked at the end of March and declined by almost 40 per cent in April. This is good news and shows that the new marketing condition which Ofgas added to the supply licence this year, is having an effect.

New Look offer at up to 175p

NEW LOOK, the fashion retailer, said yesterday it has set its offer price range at 155p-175p per share. Announcing the listing particulars for its placing, intermediaries offer and employee offer, New Look said its market capitalisation at the mid-point of the offer price range would be £330m. New Look said the offers are expected to raise approximately £125m. Of this total, £82m is being raised for the company, of which approximately £40m will be used to redeem certain of the company's preference shares and pay accrued dividends up to the date of the admission, New Look said. The balance of £42m will be employed to reduce net debt. The intermediaries and employee offers both opened today.

Managers proud to be green

UK managers see themselves as environmentally aware, with nearly 90 per cent saying that they personally take action to help the environmenta t work, but often this doesa not translate into company-wide policies, according to a report "A Green and Pleasant Land?" published today by the Institute of Management and Electrolux UK. Tony Juniper, campaigns director at Friends of the Earth, said that the report confirmed that, despite all the green assurances of recent years, "environmental policy is driven by fear of paving out compensation for the damage they cause or because of threats to their public relations". Such incentives were insufficient to ensure that the environment was protected.

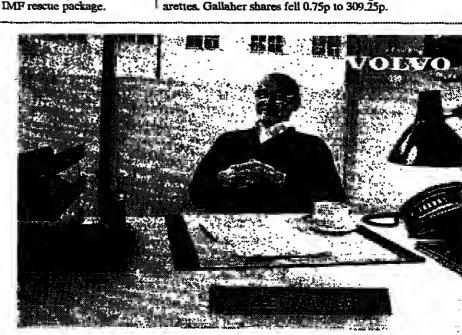
Bootleggers harm Gallagher

THE CIGARETTE maker Gallaher warned yesterday that bootlegging of tobacco from mainland Europe, where taxes are much lower than in Britain, remains a "significant issue". The company said sales fell in the legitimate domestic cigarette market by just over 4 per cent during the first three months of this year, but chairman Peter Wilson told sharebolders at the annual meeting he believed the market "may well be roughly flat" hecause "bootlegging". "The UK government needs to take the whole issue of smuggling more seriously – ultimately it is the small retailer who is being punished," said Wilson. Gallaher, the country's biggest tobacco company, owns the best selling cigarette brand Benson and Hedges as well as leading low tar brand Silk Cut. Britain has 12 million smokers, consuming about 77 billion cigarettes. Gallaher shares fell 0.75p to 309.25p.

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Footsie dives as Far East worries return

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

stock market, sending Footsie is creating increasing mease 772p. tumbling 100.5 points to in some investment houses. In

A tide of woe seemed to than 7 per cent. Last week it flow from the Far East. Wor- suffered a 12 per cent fall. ries of another wave of bad credit agency, to cut its rating Halifax led the pack with a 48p for five leading Japanese jump to 923p. The former Hong Kong's chief executive, warned that the former arrival tomorrow in the Morcolony's economy was likely to shrink because of the Asian downturn. The threat to Indonesian contracts also hurt.

With the Hong Kong and Tokyo share markets weak, the Pacific problems and mar-

But nevertheless they were out in some force. "The quality of the buying has been much higher than the selling", observed one market man.

The Moscow market, which has attracted consider-

Only 15 Footsie stocks debts prompted Moody's, the managed to make progress.

ety was inspired by its signalled

gan Stanley international index which should make the shares 7.75p to 388.75p, and Granada, more attractive to US and 16p to 1,135p, strengthened.
European investors. The Footsie downturn was Royal Bank of Scotland was

kets like Moscow in free-fall, ifax was construed as a man- son, which has moved into the there was little incentive for agement attempt to put the mid cap index, hardened 2.5p buyers to struggle for stock. group in play. Royal Bank, it to 134.5p and Seton Health-

Most financials, particu- tracker funds looked for stock. larly those with Far Eastern associations, retreated. HSBC came under pressure. Sugslumped 109p to 1,531p and gestions that Amerada Hess,

panicky trading it fell more Bank of Scotland and the yet- the damage. The Americans Matheson Securities, is unto be consummated merger - said they would report on ruffled by the likelihood of the 57p to 200p; Whitecroft, an in-Commercial Union and their drilling by the end of this Amerada Hess drill being un-General Accident.

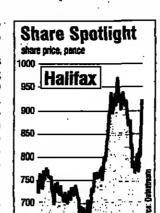
Misys, the first computer membership, was another The former building soci- blue chip to throw off the gloom clouds. It jumped 166p to 3,534p.

An alleged approach to too much for the supporting indices. The mid and small cap New York giving ground on another influence. Any such measurements were hit hard. initiative by the cash-rich Hal- Marketing group Taylor Nelwas said, rejected the Halifax care, expected to join followovertures; its shares fell 5p to ing the take over of Scholl, improved 50p to 822.5p as

The Falkland Islands trio

commercial quantities of oil nadian group 12.5 per cent. Others lowered included and gas off the Falklands did month.

When they have finished, group to achieve Footsie the Borgny Dolphin rig will move to where the Lasmo-led consortium will search. Lasmo was made", he said.



John Gilmour, analyst at

successful. "One must remember that in the North Sea 19 wells were drilled before a commercial discovery

Desire, which had led the Falklands charge, fell 67.5p to 377.5; Greenwich Resources lost 4.5p to 35.75p and Westmount 47.5p to 227.5p. Lasmo, which may have struck it rich in Pakistan, fell 2p to 295.5p.

Hillsdown Holdings was busily traded on the expected Unigate hid. The shares held at 198.5p. Break-up hopes lifted Booker 4p to 283.5p.

Cadbury Schweppes, meeting analysts next week, fell 25p to 932p, and Kinglisher, show-French electrical chain later this month, shaded 7p to investment meeting at Hen- rector Fred Ward.

Asia returned to haunt the able amounts of foreign cash, Standard Chartered 40.5p to the US group, has not found Petroleum 25 per cent and a Caderson Crosthwaite, hardened stock market sending Footsis 4p to 531p.

Profits warnings took their toll. Hall Engineering slumped dustrial group, 27.5p to 81p and engineer Crabtree 12p to 57.5p.

Engineer Powerscreen weakened 22p to 110.5p after reporting a £65m loss. The Stock Exchange is said to be investigating dealings in the shares ahead of the figures. On Friday an institutional investor sold 670,000 shares well below the then market price.

Philippine Gold jumped 4p to 17.5p on a smattering of small buy orders with some suggesting an encouraging statement will be made.

PhoneLink, up 4.5p to 55p. said it was in talks which could lead to two acquisitions. Tom Hoskins, the little brewer and pub-owner, frothed 2.5p to ing researchers Darty, its 37.5p. Fairacres Group, running the Sandbanks ferry off Poole in Dorset, has acquired 1.083p. Engineer BBA, with an 27.42 per cent from former diTAKING STOCK

CALLUNA, an electronics group, put on 3.5p to 34p; the price, 46.25p a year ago, was down to 8.5p at the start of the year. The sparky run stems from unrelated US influences. A transatiantic rival is in financial difficulties and there seem to be strengthening hopes of a major American deal. According to the rumour mill, Caliuna's "hardwall" system, aimed at preventing hackers getting into computer networks, has attracted the attention of the Pentagon which is said to be keen to take on the company's

SHARES of JKX Oil & Gas shaded to 31.5p but could suffer a sharp fall today. The company, the subject of a fierce takeover battle last year, produced increased losses of £3.3m, A £54m takenver bid by Ramco Energy was defeated by Ukrgazprom, the Ukrainian state-owned oil company, which waded into the stock market, buying a 22 per cent blocking stake and forcing Ramco to walk away.

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DIANE COYLE WONDERS WHETHERA TAX WILL CURB BUBBLE **SPECULATORS**

"THERE'S a sucker born every minute," the American impresario P.T. Barnum famously claimed. The Barnum theory, applied to the financial markets, has been enjoying a new lease of life in the wake of last year's Asian crash. To many commeotators those events confirm that the markets are fuelled by speculative bubbles, with a hundred suckers for every Soros. And this explanation has given a new lease of life to proposals for a tax on international currency trades in order to discourage frothy speculation - a so-called Tobin Tax after its foremost advocate, the Nobel Laureate James Tobin.

This is the reasoning. Curerency markets are obviously occessary to finance bona fide trade and investment, but all too easily speculative bubbles emerge which drive exchange rates far away from the levels that would be justified by ecocomic fundamentals such as future GDP growth, inflation and export prospects. A small tax oo currency transactions however. might well discourage eoough short-term trading, not related to "real" figancial flows, to prevent such divergences of Asian markets. They were valu-ter.

100 mg (

ought to be. Its faus also argue that a Tobin tax would raise funds for useful expenditure such as third world debt relief. What could be more satisfying than taking from the international élite of financial fat cats and giving to the world's poorest people, at the same time as making the financial markets more orderly?

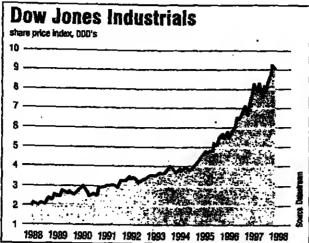
Sadly, there are many possible objections to a Tobin tax. Some are practical. Who would enforce and collect it? Why should a small tax actually discourage speculators when transactions costs in most markets are already much higher than the proposed tax rate - and when the potential gains from speculation are so enormous?

But the main problem with the idea is that it rests nn the existence of immutable fundamentals, which sensible investors will reflect in the price at which they are willing to trade but from which the Soroses and suckers can push them too far in one direction. There has to be an underlying truth, reflected in the efficient market price, from which self-fulfilling bubbles emerge and, ultimately, burst. The right policy for market stability in this case is to skim nff the bubbles before they grow too big.

A pleasing vision, but a false

one. The evidence is that fi-

nancial markets, and not just their bobbles, can be inherently self-fulfilling. There is no true valuation corresponding to an nbjective set of economic fundameotals. To see this, just think about the importance of technology stocks in Wall Street's long bull run. Nooe of the investors in these software and biotech companies has the remotest idea how valuable they ought to be, and the stocks trade at awe-inspiring prices while the companies' earnings remain low or even negative. There is simply too much uncertainty about future demand for different types of high-tech products, not to mention the underlying science. But the same point can be made about the the fundamentals do still mat- ever a critical mass of investors



able as long as they were valuable, and when ennugh investors changed their mind. they weren't.

As the great master, John Maynard Keynes put it, writing in 1937, a market valuation .. is subject tn suddeo and vinlent changes. The practice of calmness and immnbility, nf certainty and security, suddenly breaks down. New fears and 1 May 1975, making the US hopes will, without warning, take charge of human conduct. bringing in more investors, re-The forces of disillusion may suddenly impose a new conventional basis of valuation," In today's high-speed mar-

kets, a change in expectations can rapidly create a oew future. As soon as the general optimism about the Tiger economies foundered, for whatever reason, their currency and stock markets crashed and, lo, their economic future no longer looks rosy. This is not to say that fundamentals do oot matter at all, for it is also true that the Asian economies were labouring under weak banking systems, corrupt loans and bad government. If this were oot the case, they could probably have sailed quite swiftly out of the crash, as the western economies did after the stock market crash of 1987. As it is, recovery is going to take a loog haul of political and institutional reform as well as the IMF's economic medicine. In the real economy, still emerge - they do so when-

But not in the markets, and this gets back to why the Tobin tax is misguided. As Paul Davidson, ao economics professor at the University of Tennessee. pointed out in a presentation to the annual conference of the Royal Economic Society last wonth, the available empirical evidence suggests that a reduction in transactions costs oo

stock market more liquid and



JM Keynes warned of the 'forces of disillusion'

duced the volatility of share prices. This is consistent with the view that the market is entirely self-fulfilling, because in that case the more investors there are, the more likely there are to be different views about where the market is heading. Bubbles adopts the view that it is headand the second of the second of the

ing up and up. But increasing transaction costs via a tax would not only not prevent bubbles but would also increase day-to-day

Does this have any implications for Wall Street now? One comfort is that if Wall Street does crash, the American economy is in good shape. Inflation is low. So is government borrowing. The US technological edge has widened, and the economy starts from a position of having the lowest unemployment rate for a quarter of century. Besides, Mr Greenspan proved himself

amazingly good at sweeping up after the 1987 crash, and there is every reason to believe the Fed would do as good a job

However, even better news is that there exists a wide difference of opinion about where US shares are heading. The believers in a "new economic paradigm" argue that technology is delivering higher prospective growth and low inflation, justifying the current and higher levels of share prices. Somewhat alarmingly, all of Main Street, USA seems to have joined this group, if the popularity of investment clubs is anything to go by. Still, there are real benefits from n frothy stock market. It does encourage venture capitalists and entrepreneurial investors in high-technology companies no end, helping to create its own fundamentals.

On the other hand, there is also a Barrum camp which reckons the stock market is a dangerously stretched bubble about to burst at the first clear sign of re-emerging inflatioo and a downturn in the business cycle.

Along with Alan Greenspan's carefully timed reflections that the stock market might be suffering "irrational exuberance" and his steady massaging of expectations in readiness for a rise in interest rates, we have to hope that there might just be enough sceptics in the market already to prevent anything worse than a serious correction on Wall Street.

d.coyle@independent.co.uk

Newspaper group profits hit record

By Vincent Wall

The current financial year has started positively in all areas of Independent newspapers glob-al operations, chairman Tony O'Reilly informed the group's AGM in Dublin yesterday.

With the Irish economy continuing to grow very strongsphere's ecomonies weathering the fall out from South East Asia, we expect the out-turn for the year will be an improvement over 1997," he added.

Pre-tax profits rose by 36 per cent last year to a record level of just IR£1m.

Dr O'Reilly said Princes Holdings the Cable & MDS company in which Independent has a 50 per cent stake, now had over 140,000 customers and a capacity for 500,000 homes passed, equivalent to half the households in the country.

He said he hoped to be able to announce some interesting news on developments in this area in the next two months but he did oot elaborate as to whether to this referred to Princes Holdings' anticipated bid for Cablelink or the possiblity that the company might take a Stock Exchange flota-

Referring after the meeting to a possible link to cabling group chief executive Liam Healy said Princes Holdings other 50 per cent holder, Clear Channel of the US, was interested in expanding its opera-



Tony O'Reilly (right) and Liam Healy at yesterday's AGM

tions in Ireland and that Independent was equally interested. Asked about reports that the Daily Mail might be about to establish a national daily title in Ire-

land in partnership with Ireland on Sunday, Mr Healey said every new entrant would pose a threat but that it would have a tough fight against the likes of the Star. the Mirror and the Sun. In terms of the groups core Irish titles, he said all papers, in-

cinding the Sunday Independent, needed regeneration over a period but that design changes should be gradual and should not be ooticed by readers. The new Saturday magazine

which has brought sales to a record 182,000 on that day, was only up and running for six months, he said, and like any start-up operation was incuring initial losses. But he stressed

that it would make profits soon. The Sunday Tribune in which Independent has a 29 per cent stake, was making considerably lower losses than before.

Mr Healy said that the group had not yet decided how much to invest in the London Independent and the Independent on Sunday. "It's a question of evaluating what's required in terms of bringing the titles back to profitability in a three to five-year timescale. But we will support them for whatever is occided."

Earlier Brendan Hopkins. managing director of Independent Newspapers UK, said sales on the daily Independent had stabilised significantly at 220,000 while sales on the Independent on Sunday had risen by 7 per cent since the titles were purchased outright earlier this year.

EU blocks pay-TV link up

THE European Commission yesterday wielded its rarely used power to ban big corporate mergers and blocked a proposed alliance in Germany's pay-televisioo market.

The Commission's antitrust. chief Karel van Miert said he had agreed a compromise with German media tycoon Leo Kirch and Deutsche

Mr Van Miert told a news con-Telekom, two of the partners in the deal, but that Bertelsmann, ference. the third key player, had rejected making any further con-

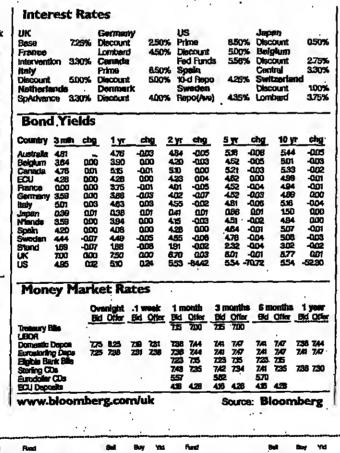
"The Commission has just unanimously decided to ban the venture of Deutsche Telekom, Bertelsmann and the Kirch group. That means a formal decision has today been taken,"

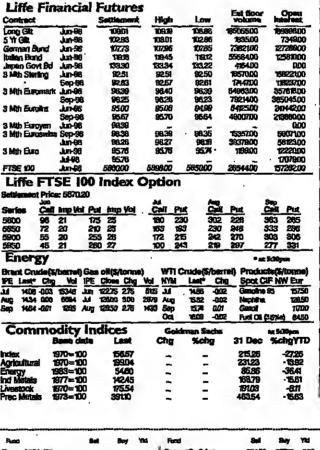
cessions to win EU approval.

"A final attempt was made to try and reach a solution that

would meet our concerns regarding competition. I went as far as to make a verbal proposal that was agreed by Mr Kirch, but totally refused by Bertelsmann,"

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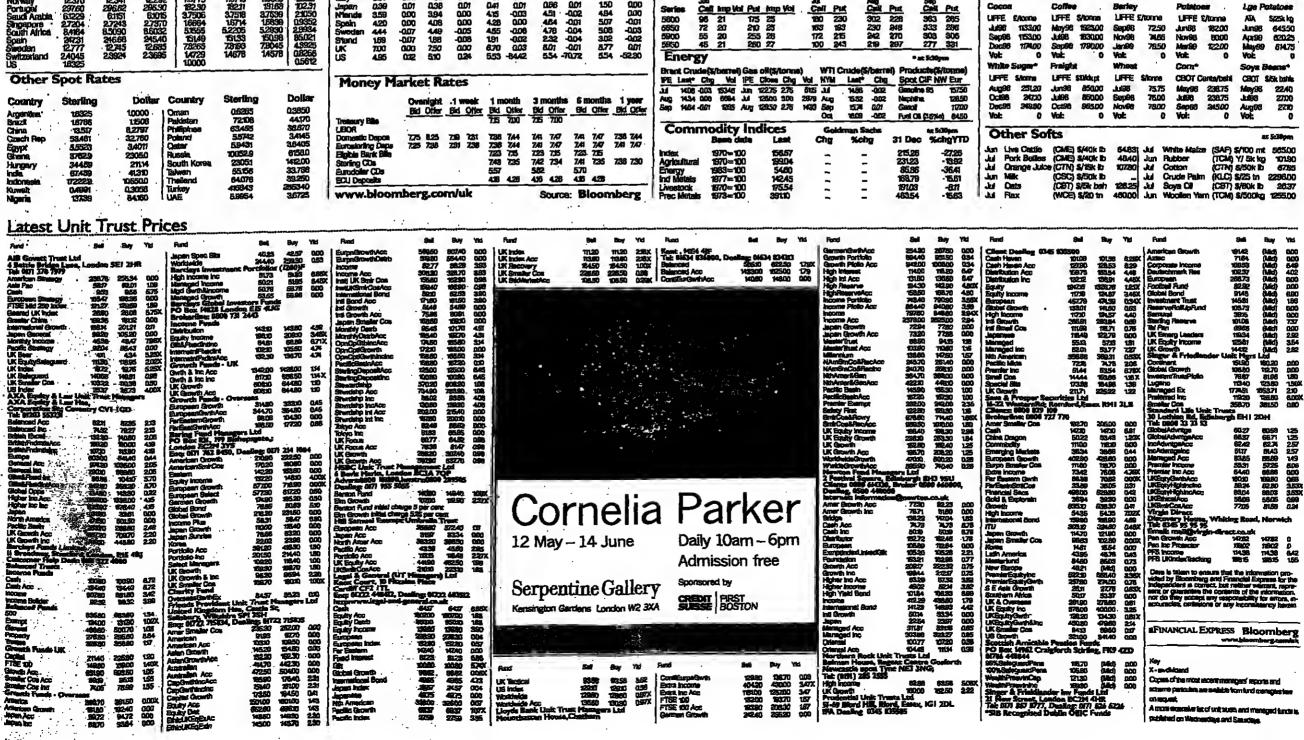




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yer



Ultimate Tests for future of England

Clive Woodward's squad of rookies arrive in Australia tonight ready for a baptism of fire. Chris Hewett reports

A PURPLE-FACED collection of Wallaby apparatchiks have gone out of their way to place this summer's England party in what they consider to he its correct historical perspective: "The higgest sell-out since Gallipoli" was the illjudged and gratuitously offensive contribution from Dick finish of it," said the coach, McGruther of the Australian Rugby Union. Sensibly, Clive Woodward has not responded in kind, but had he chosen to do so he might have misquoted a former cigar-smoking Prime Minister by saying: "Never in the field of sporting conflict has sting in the tail. so much hilge been spouted by so many about so little."

England have toured the southern hemisphere with young, inexperienced and largely experimental squads before and will doubtless do so again, especially now that the humbling hlunderbusses of the International Rugby Board have conceded that the constitution of a national team is entirely a matter for the nation concerned. Not to put too fine a point on it, the Wallahies themselves have visited these shores armed with players conspicuous only by their anonymity. The fact that many of those players promptly announced themselves as world-class acts was, surely, the whole point of

The purpose of this trip is to discover exactly how many of the current crop are of genuine Test standard and by the time we get home, we'll know the answers," said Woodward, the England coach, yesterday. "Considering we're less than 18 months away from a World Cup, that information will be incredibly valuable. Priceless, even. I only see positives and pluses arising from the next five weeks or so. It's going to be very interesting, very exciting and, most importantly, very in-

Woodward has not changed his opinion of the itinerary. which includes four Tests in seven matches and enough travelling to reduce David Hempleman-Adams to a pipe and slippers man. "Ideally, the five matches in New Zealand would have been the start and pointedly omitting any reference to the Australian and South African ambushes awaiting him at either end. He is quite right, of course; the Springbok Test in Cape Town on 4 July is an unnecessarily vicious

Not that there will be many tea parties in New Zealand. "I don't think the players appreciate even now the sort of pace, ferocity and intensity they are about to be exposed to," said John Mitchell, whose value to

Woodward as an assistant coach will be magnified a hundredfold by his rich experience as a former Waikato and All Black captain. "They are going to have to learn and learn quickly, for the culture back home is one of keeping the ball alive and

bar Premiership have prepared the less experienced tourists for the rigours of perpetual rngby motion? "Well, it's all we have," replied Mitchell, less than encouragingly.

their feet." Will the Allied Dun-

He did, however, agree that the All Blacks themselves are

The England coach, Clive Woodward, in a confident mood at Twickenham yesterday before heading south

embarking on a transitional spell, having lost Sean Fitzpatrick and Zinzan Brooke to retirement, Justin Marshall to long-term injury and several

other renowned Silver Fern foot soldiers to the physical ravages of the high-impact Super 12 provincial series. "There

All of which tended to suggest that the seafaring nature of this week's England "bonding" session on the Solent was organised more in hope than expectation; if the combined talents of the southern hemisphere superpowers amount to a sporting iceberg, the tourists are very definitely several decks short of a Titanic. Matthew Dawson's 37-strong crew are sailing into stormy waters and most hardened realists doubt whether the ship will withstand the first squall.

might be one or two unfamil-

iar faces, but the production

line looks in pretty good order

to me and rather like our own

newcomers, those players

called into the Test side will see

it as a once-in-a-lifetime op-

portunity.

Yet Woodward was quite ustified in his assertion that give or take a handful of high-profile absentees - David Rees, Jeremy Guscott, Will Greenwood, Kyran Bracken, Lawrence Dallaglio and Neil Back spring to mind -- the "form" players were safely on the place that left Heathrow for Brisbane last night. If the late apologies received from Greenwood and Back are likely to prove severely debilitating, especially with the likes of Guscott, Mike Catt, Phil de Glanville and Richard Hill already on an unavailability list

nowski and Tyler Hamilton,

at the head of the hunch.

the food," Winn said.

er positions remain very much open to offers.

Photograph: Robert Hallam

No worst case scenario has entered my thinking," insisted Woodward, his upbeat performance sharply at odds with the apocalyptic soundings from Down Under, "What would constitute a success? Coming hack home with five or six obvious World Cup contenders to go with those we already know about."

Such a return is entirely feasible; more feasible, certainly, than five or six victories. In southern hemisphere company, three wins from seven outings would be a spectacular triumoh.

ENGLAND'S TOUR ITINEHARY: Saturday, 6 June: Australie fet Suncorp Stedlum, Brisbere), Saturday, 13 June: New Zealand A (at Rugby Park, Hamilton). Tuesday, 16 June: New Zelend A recienty (at homested Swetter Insurance). Saturday, 20 June:

Newsands, Cape Town).

ENGLAND, SQUAD; Backs; N Beal (Northeropton), M Perry (Beth), T Stimpson (Leicester), S Brown (Richmond), O Chepman (Richmond), T Beim (Sale), A Hapley (Leicester), M Moord (Sale), J Beasandell (Sale), S Potter (Leicester), S Havenscroft (Beracens), A King (Waspe), J Lewesey (Brisch, J Wildman) (Newcastie), S Benton (Glouseter), 18 (Saracens), R. Cockerill (Lelcester), P. Greening (Sicusester), O Crompton (Richmond), W. Green (Waspa), P. Vickery (Sicusester), G. Archer (Newcaste), R. Fider (Gloucester), O Greencock (Seracens), I. Sima (Gloucester), a Clarke (Richmond), A Diprose (Seracens), I. Moody (Leicester), S. Ojomon (Gloucester), R. Pool-Jones (Stade François), P. Senderson (Seie), a Stumbern (Seracens).

Need for Scottish backs to improve

JOHN RUTHERFORD believes Scotland's fighting spirit will enable them to bounce back from Tuesday's 51-26 defeat by Fiji in Suva. Rutherford, the assistant coach, admitted the Scots did not do themselves any favours with some weak back play in the opening match of their tour.

However, he felt certain that that beating would not destroy confidence. "I know that it is difficult to get over a defeat but the good thing about Scots players is that they can pick themselves up again," Rutherford said. In contrast, the Fiji coach,

Brad Johnstone, a former All Black front rower, fears the worst for the Scots when they meet Australia in two internationals next month. "They're going to have to improve markedly to hold any sonthern hemisphere nation. They've got a big job, it's going to be a hig ask for them to compete with the Wallabies." Johnstone said. Scotland have delayed an-

nouncing their team to face Victoria in Melbourne on Saturday until today. But the expectation is that those players who did not play against Fiji will be given an outing. Rutherford is looking for a hig improvement from the backs. "Basically, we played too flat an alignment," he said. "What we have to is vary our an- : gle of attack and ensure that there are players forming a second wave of attack."

Rod Macqueen, the Australia coach, did not welcome Fiji's win, saying: "The last thing we want is more pressure put on us with suggestions they [the Scots and England] are under strength."

The Australian Rugby Union is becoming concerned over ticket sales for the internationals against England and Scotland, with both countries minus much of their best talent. The Scots' first international against Australia, in Sydney on 13 June, is selling reasonably well and is expected to draw a good crowd on the day. The ARU is banking on the Scots proving competitive to boost sales for the second international in Brisbane on 20 June.

Wales suffered another setback yesterday as they prepared for their tour of southern Africa, with Allan Bateman ruled out of the trip. The Richmond and British Isles centre will have surgery next Wednesday - the day after Wales leave for Zimhabwe - on a nose injury he sustained at the start of this year.

Pascoe to try

shows based

on pop music

THE former hurdler Alan Pas-

coe launched his vision for the

future of British athletics yes-

terday by promising to promote

given the job of promoting the

major domestic meetings, plans

to revolutionise the way they are

staged. Individual events will be

Pascoe, who was last week

its performers like pop stars.

Athletics





Spencer Brown Age: 24. Club: Richmond. A Royal Marine bandsman, which

explains the phenomenal lungpower he displayed during the famous double tackle, one on either side of the pitch in the space red rose contention and his snappy finishing did the rest.



Steve Ravenscroft Age: 27. Club: Saracens.

shoulder and Philippe Sella on his right, Ravenscroft, was always English Rugby Partnership XV's likely to learn a thing or two. His with Auckland's biggest export. England A level last season and tense battle with the All Blacks education is now complete. Saracens insist he is not yet the thanks to an error-free season at finished article - "he still has to or two about back row, play, Vicarage Road in which his learn to think his way through a thinks he has the ability to prostackling and ball-retention were game," says Mark Evans, the Lon- per at the top level. He will have of 12 seconds, launched him Into a scriking feature of Sarries' rise to fame and fortune. He is a hard in a big man's game, Sturnham has Neil Back and Richard Hill will



Ben Sturnham Age: 24. Club: Saracens:

With Michael Lynagh on his left A physical specimen of Lomuesque proportions, Sturnham's sprint times also bear comparison doners' director of rugby - but to play out of his socks, though; size on his side.



Pat Sanderson Age: 20. Club: Sale.

A real dark horse. Sanderson impressed some good judges with his energetic contributions at John Mitchell, who knows a thing soon be on the warpath.

of Proustian proportions, oth-

Dawson sprinted across to join swing into action, chasing down Dawson was first through the the danger men, Daniel Bara- sprint point.

With the peloton closing

before resuming their positions fast it was touch and go on the run-in to Nottingham city cen-The 95-mile ride held no tre, but the breakaways held out for Winn to take the sprint by fears for Winn, an ex-mountain hiker who turned to road racing half a length. last year, and Dawson, the Only 50 seconds later, the 69-

British 100-mile time trial chamstrong main pack roared home pion. "We shared everything. and O'Grady completed a good day for Gan by snatching third The pace making, the drinks and place. With time bonuses award-They also agreed to share a ed to the top three, O'Grady increased his advantage over Boardman to 21 seconds.

highlighted with music, lights Tuesday's stage winner, Jay and an enhanced sound system. Sweet, crashed in the closing while the field in the non-track miles and trailed home 74th, events will be cut to put more 1min 15sec off the pace. focus on the leading names.

find life more difficult in today's 129-mile leg to Cardiff, which includes key mountain climbs at Abergavenny and Caerphilly. Abergavenny and Caerpnilly.
PRUTOUR flouth stege, Chester to Notingham, 95 miles): 1 JWm (63) Welss 339:05;
2 KDawson (65) Britain same irms; 3 S OGrach
(Aus) Gan at Steec; 4 A Korff (66) Feetins; 5
C Lityaritie (63) Britain; 6 E Graqus (US) Olime,
al same time, Lauding overall positions; 1
O'Grach 17:47:01; 2 E Bourstram (63) Gan at
21 sec; 3 Il Barranowold (Pol US Postal Service
+0:35; 5 N Stephana (Aus) Festina +0:46.

The home riders are likely to

The set-up will be more akin to pop groups rather than an amateur sport," said Pascoe, the former Commonwealth and European 400m hurdles champion. He unveiled his vision when launching this summer's British Grand Prix which takes place at Sheffield's Don

"British athletics has got so many star names - probably more stars than the England soccer team and certainly more than England's cricket team at the moment and we want to

Valley Stadium on 2 August.

The high jumper Steve Smith is one of the top names already confirmed for the Grand Prix in Sheffield. The Olympic bronze medallist said: "The spectators need to be able to play their part, like they do in a theatre."

build on that," Pascoe said.

Other names already confirmed include Britain's triple jump world indoor record holder, Ashia Hansen, and the former javelin world record holder, Steve Backley.

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England fall to classy **Australians**

Hockey

By Bill Colwill in Utrecht

ENGLAND, who yesterday lost 3-0 in torrrential rain to Australia, must now avoid defeat against Malaysia if they are to qualify for the fifth-eighth place play-offs and keep alive their hopes of winning a place in the élite Champions' Trophy in Lahore at the end of October and avoid the qualifying tournament for the next World Cup.

England were no match for a professional Australian side. After England had squandered two early penalty corners Australia went ahead in the 25th minute when Michael Brennan gave Simoo Mason no chance from close range. The killer blow for England came just two minutes from the interval when Jay Stacy drove Australia's second penalty corner between Mason's legs. Eleven minutes into the second half Stacy struck

again and it was all over. Two sloppy defensive errors within four minutes cost England's women dearly as New Zealand beat them 2-1 yesterday. Although Lucilla Wright pulled a goal back with three minutes remaining the result was never in doubt.

SHOLAND MESH: A Misson (Reading); B Gen-rerd (Reddington), J Wysti (Reading), J Halle (FDM), A Humptony (Cannock); J Walle (Red-dington), J Pidensek, Cannock), W Thompson (Old Louptoniens); A Sharpe (Cannock), R Gen-cia (FDM), capit M Fearm Panding). Substitutes used: J Lee (Cld Loughtoniens). C Gless (Southgain), J Wallis (Reddington).

BNGLAND WOMEN'S C Raid (Highsown); Esspach (Canterbury), K Brown (Sough), Clentow (Canterbury), J Brown (Sough), Whighs (Dhon), K Bowd (Motal (Laicaste); Whighs (Dhon), K Bowd (Laicaste), J Shand Sutten Colchider, P Miller (Laicaste), J Shand (Sough) Substitutes used: L Copeler (Sough), K Moore (Chon), S Stanta (Laica ten) F Greegism (Door)

Winn seizes a rare chance of victory

Cycling

By Martin Ayres in Nottingham

JULIAN WINN, of Wales, took advantage of a temporary truce by the hig hitters in the Prutour of Britain to win the fourth stage from Chester to Nortingham. The race leader. Stuart

O'Grady, and second-placed Chris Boardman had their minds fixed on today's crunch stage from Birmingham to Cardiff. They sheltered in the peloton while their Gan team-mates patrolled the front of the race to ensure that no rivals sneaked away.

"It was hard work for the rest of team as they kept the pace high to deter hreakaways but Stuart and I enjoyed an armchair ride," Boardman said. The Welsh and British na-

tional teams had anticipated Gan's strategy and went on the attack from the start. At 16 miles, after several moves had been neutralised, Winn opened a 100-yard gap. Britain's Kevin

him and they committed themselves to a long breakaway effort.

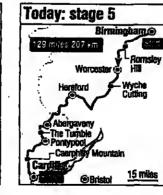
Both riders were more than 18 minutes in arrears on overall times, no threat to Boardman and co, and the pack was happy to see the Anglo-Welsh duo disappear into the Cheshire lanes. The only major climb of the day, the seven-mile-long Cat and Fiddle in Derbyshire, saw the pair crest the summit with eight minutes in hand over the main pack.

A counter-attack by the US Postal team provoked Gan to



hle clear round in Lisbon.

£1,000 sprint prize on the nutskirts of Nottingham, although



Fisher maintains Renville's gentle progress in Suffolk success

Equestrianism

By Genevieve Murphy

JAMES FISHER, riding Renville. won the first of four World Championship International Team Trials at the Suffolk Show yesterday. But, unlike some of his opponents, he has no burning desire to be one of the top three on overall points in the trials and so secure a place on the British squad for the World Equestrian Games in October. loves jumping. I would hate him

In yesterday's trial, which to lose his spark through being was incorporated into the Bank pushed too quickly." of Scotland Grand Prix, Fisher Despite a torrential downhad the distinction of defeating

pour in the morning, the ground John Whitaker, on the useful stood up well to its soaking. Six Virtual Village Heyman, and Di horse jumped clear over a Lampard, on Abbervail Dream. course which Fisher and Fisher's I0-year-old horse only Whitaker felt was about the right size for this stage in the competed in his first Nations' Cup a year ago, jumping a douseason, although Lampard believed that it should have been "I'm happy with what he's bigger - with a tighter time that would have brought it more into

doing and I'll keep taking each line with Continental tracks step as it comes," Fisher said. "Renville is very careful and he Lampard was nevertheless

from Abbervail Dream, who had been off colour when competing at the French Nations' Cup show in La Baule earlier

John Whitaker and the Windsor Grand Prix winner, Diamond Cliff, dropped out of contention when the horse jumped right coming through the second of two trehles and was forced to stop when faced with the wing of the final element. Michael Whitaker had one error in the opening round pleased with two clear rounds on Hilton and two on Evert.

this month

HANG Foley 2 40 2 2gc 3.10 M

NO ER NOT CE MEDIAN

STAKES E. C4 28T added CLASS F. C. ASSIFIE

GEOFF WRAGG yesterday but he has earned the right to gave the former favourite Guiland the go-ahead to run in the Derby. A trip to Epsom has put to rest the trainer's fears that the ground will be too firm for his coli, so he has scrapped plans to switch the Chester Vase winner to Sunday's Prix du Jockey-Club at Chantilly and reverted to the original target of the Epsom Classic six days later.

"The decisioo has beeo ade and Gulland will go to Epsom," Wragg revealed. "I have been to Epsom and it is geouine good ground from what I saw yesterday - the ground is very good. The forecast is unsettled too. And it will be better for me to have an extra few days to get him ready."

Gulland topped the antepost market oo the Derby after chasing home Xaar in last month's Craveo Stakes at Newmarket only to be pushed at Epsom. out in the betting after a less than impressive win over The weeks ago. He is quoted at 8-1 William Hill.

am very pleased with him," ing OK. I am oever confident Coronation Cup.

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be one of the favourites and we

have got our fingers crossed!" Gulland will be only a fourth Derby runner and a first in 10 years for Wragg, who won the race with Teenoso in 1983.

The trainer, whose King George VI And Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes winner Pentire missed the race because he was originally thought oot good enough to enter, sent

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Davis Rock (Ayr 3.50) NB: Last Lap (Ayr 4.20)

out 5-2 favourite Red Glow to finish fourth in 1988.

Michael Hills will agaio ride Gulland, leaving his trainer father Barry looking for a rider if The Glow Worm reopposes

Leading Derby hope Haami "delighted" John Duniop yes-Glow Worm at Chester three terday morning in a racecourse workout. He was put through his paces at Goodwood in a gal-"Gulland is very well and I lop with last year's Derby secood Silver Patriarch, who is Wragg added. "Everything is go- warming up for oext Friday's

And his trainer's racing secretary Marcus Hosgood revealed: "Mr Dunlop was very, very happy. They went over about a mile and a furlong at Goodwood this morning and it went fine. The trainer is delighted. Pat Eddery will ride Silver Patriarch at Epsom but I'm not sure about whether Richard Hills will be on Haami as Ham-

tamam in the Derby." Haami has been prominent in the Derby betting since he finished fifth to King Of Kings in the 2,000 Guineas and is quoted at 10-1 by Ladbrokes.

dan Al Maktoum also has Mu-

Ladbrokes yesterday cut Courteous's price for the Vodafooe Derby from 20-1 into 16-1 after the colt was confirmed an inteoded runner at Epsom. And ponters were warned to respect the Paul Cole-trained colt io the Classic week on Saturday, eveo though he will be running for Classic Trial at Sandown last

was always the plan," stressed Anthony Penfold, racing man-everything we have asked of him ager to owner Fahd Salman. and worked well at Newbury last



the first time since he won the Cape Verdi and Frankie Dettori surge clear of the 1,000 Guineas field at Newmarket on 3 May. Now she is to take on the colts Photograph: Allsport

developer and we didn't want to "He hasn't run again but that give him another hard race. He has come on for the race, done "He is a May 14 foal and a late weekeod. He won on soft would handle the ground."

ground at Sandown but we feel better ground. He is a very good mover and we were anxious before Sandown about whether he

he will be equally effective oo doo at Epsom by Richard only ever a possibility he was go- ed by Benny The Dip at Epsom Quinn, had attracted little antepost support in receot days, as kept our options open and gohe had been thought more like- ing to Epsom is not a change of ly to go for the French Derby.

Courteous, who will be rid- But Penfold stressed: "It was Silver Patriarch, short-heading to France. We had always 12 months ago, has been confirmed a runner in the Coronatioo Cup at Epsom a week

7.7.	
	HYPERION
2.20 Miss Grapette	3.50 Nomore Mr Niceguy
2.50 Bowcliffe Grange	4.20 Triennium
3.20 Bride's Answer	4.50 Thorntoun Belle
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High usually I Cleft-hand galloping course.	

	2.20	EBF AYR MAY NOVICE STAKES (CLASS D) £4,500 edded 2YO 5f Penalty Value £3,072
1	0301	PIPS MAGIC (11) (Frank Brady) J Golde 84 F Egus 4
2	1	HENRY HALL (12) (7) LI M G Promotions Lady N Tirider 80
3	3	SO WILLING (17) (A G Watson) M Dock 8 12 Date Gibson 8
4		SUPER FORUM (13) (BF) (Mrs Jacqueline Control) M Johnston 8 12D Holland 3
5	3	MISS GRAPETTE (25) (Mrs A E Robertson) J Berry 87 G Carter 5
8	20611	PALACE GREEN (10) (D) LI M Chapman) D Chapman 8 7
		- Company

BETTING: 2-1 lilles Grapette, 4-1 Super Forus, 5-1 Henry Hall, Palace Green, So Willing, 7-1 Pipe Margic 1997; Henryshy Abstone 2 B 9 J F Egan 11-2 P Events) chem (3) 7 ran
FORM GUIDE
Phys Margic (25-1) tracked leaders, led inside final furiong, ran on under pressure, wor as Bloon (6) moto good) beating Marybo Special by "Nerryth, 13 ran. Henry Hell (7-1) always close up, led inside final furiong, edged left, ran on, won at Thirst (6) claimor, good to firm) beating Shirby Not by 1 length, 14 ran. So Willing (14-1) headway 21 out, ran on threater finish, 3-d of 12, 11% lengths be-hind Baymot Lody at Hamilton (61, good). Mark Johnston's youngster is obviously a speedy sort and is Beely to make a bold bid today, but tries prize looks bound for Jack Berry's MISS GRAPETTE (5-1) who chased leaders, chiven along 22 out, stayed on well fined trong, 3-d of 7, 1% length be-hind god of 7, 1% length be-ling, 3-d of 7, 1% length be-ling, 3-d of 7, 1% length be-ling, 3-d of 7, 1% length belief the seath Ped Prairie at Hamilton (5) maken, good to soft). Palace Green (6-4) made all, clear over 11 out, ran on strongly, won at Southwell (8) seler, fibresand) beating Habibi by 11 lengths, B ran. Selection: MISS GRAPETTE

2 50 BALLANTRAE HANOICAP (CLASS E) £3,800 added 5f

1 (2.00	Penalty Value £3,071
li	-03000	. RUST BOB (13) (CD) (J Fotherby) S Kettlewell S 100 Predericks (7) 12
6 2	060-13	GARNOCK VALLEY (22) (CD) (Robert Aird) J Berry 8 B 10G Carter 5 B
ы	000-10	PRIDE OF BRICTON (11) (D) (Guy Reed) C Thomion 5.59
F	11-006	MEDICAL EAST (15) (O) (Mrs. J. Herrito T O Berron 597
{ s	60-822	STORVIELLER (13) (D) (BP) (Mrs Karen S Pratt) M Dods 4 9 4 Weever 11 V
li	303440	CHEMICAST (20) (Chevion Bioley Partnership Ltd) J L Syre 58 2 Si Buckiey (7) 15
1 7	612120	BALLANTRAE BOY (13) (D) (J C McGeet J Golde 4 8 12
ĺĖ	25005-	MILLESIME (952) (D) (Ars P E Edmondson) M Were B B 9
١ē		ROWC: THE GRANGE 224 (C) (David W Checites) D Checites 5.66
	0.0680	AMOTHER EPISODE (10) (CD) (Hay-Sutherland) Miss L Permit 88 7
	00000-0	RICH GLOW (10) (CD) (M J Beleson) N Bycroft 7 8 7
	2 -00052	DALLE ME COM. 6th Odes: 1 McForbon-Murroyt D Nobra 10 8 8
	3 32250	HILTONS EXECUTIVE (42) (D) (Derek Hiller) E Alston 4 8 5 L Charlock 7
	4 000-45	SLINEDRY MAIL TOO (13) (CD) (TP Finch) Mes L Perratt 6 7 10N Kannedy 4
Ι.		- 14 declared -

Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True handloop weight: Sundey Meil 7so 7st 7th. BETTING: 5-1 Storytellor, 11-2 Pride Of Bridon, 13-2 Garnock Vellay, Boncillie Grange, 6-1 Bellantrae Boy, 12-1 others 1987: Filch Glow 5 6 4 B Droene 11-2 (N Bycroft) drawn (5) 5 ran

FORM GUIDE

Coincidence bet entinusiasts will be booking closely at the chances of Balliantrae Boy winning the Balliantrae Handicap. This would be no mere novelty wager because this highly consistent four-year-old has proved a real money-epimer this spring. Last time out (4-1) he was not degraced when 8th of 23, 4 is singtly behind. Milet Double at Thirsk (5 hough soon) a formight soon in that same contest, Miletine Bottle Bottle Double at Thirsk (6 hour, good) a formight soon in that same contest, Miletine Bottle, Gurneek Vatley (7-2) was outpaced until stayed on final 2, nears also challengs, 3rd of 8, 5 lengths behind he winner, Balliantrae Boy, at Museeburgh (6 hour, good) three vieter ago, in that same race Bowcittle Grampe (3-1) ied, deer after 21, headed and no entre wall inside final funding. 2nd of 8, 1 is lengths behind Balliantrae Boy, in Anni, Hillione Essective (9) finished 10th of 14, 10 lengths behind Balliantrae Boy, in Anni, Hillione Essective (9) finished 10th of 14, 10 lengths behind fine winner, Balliantrae Boy, at Ripon (9) apprentice hour, soft), Jest Bob (7-2) started slowly, existed right and recad slong for side, nitrory of sugernation (9 in 1) all lengths behind Fineson Cativo at Hernitin (6) supermice hour, good). Pride Of Britten (9-1) hald up, effort 21 out, never able challengs, 7th of 14, 4 is lengths behind First Melte at Ripon (6) hour, good). STORYTELLER (7-2 tay) headway halfway, hard riction and stayed on to lead inside final furions, not quicken mount troke the one to be on.

Selection: STORYTELLER

[3.20	EBF CROSSHILL CLASSIFIED STAKES (CLASS (£10,000 added 3YO 1m Penalty Value £6,710
1		BRIDE'S ANSWER (24) (II) (Mrs Jann Kregari) M Channon S 11
2		KHALAS (18) Planting Al Makasart 2 (18) 8 71
3	102-46	NIGHT FLYER (20) (The Jampot Permanship) J Hills 8 11
ā	0260-0	RELLADERA (14) DAS D Wintel N Telder 88
5		SELICIAN ROSE (200) (Im Malaren) Mas I. Persett 8.6

BETTING: 11-4 (Chehen, 5-2 Night Flyer, 4-1 Bridge) Author; 7-1 Seibhir Fronn, 10-1 Beilinders 1967: Boots Puby 3 6 11 J Waters' 10-11 for (A Bulley) chann (4 8 nim FORM GUIDE

Khaiha must be respected here on lest season's form. On his reeppearance 16 days ago, nowever, this cost disappointed even allowing for him being hampered, in their York race (7-7) he chased the lasders, eithert and richlen over 31 out, hampered over 20 out, soon besten, 10th of 11, 14 lengths behind Baweian (1nt 2f host, good to soft), it may pay to side instead with SELIGRIK ROSE; (0-1) who was soon tracking leaders, every chance approaching finel faunding, not quickers, 4th of 12, 3% lengths behind Deybrank it Aver 69 hosts, soft) in October, 17ths Billy showed herself to be a fair performer, lest year and our be a winner for local trainer (bride Penrati, British's Answer (33-1) was always prominent; exit 10 out, prehad out, won, at Kempton (fin and filles, good) beating Maria Loup by 11% lengths, 32 ren. Night Flyer (53-2) chased winner 51, 6th of 10, 7 lengths behind Paartree House at Lingfield (fin station, good), Balladers (20-1) was never dangerous, 13th of 35, 15 lengths behind forn Dougel at York (11) hosp, good).

Selection: SELIGRIK ROSE has must be respected here on lest season's form. On his responsiving 15 days ago.

[3.50	TOTE HANDICAP (CLASS C) £10,000 added 7f Penalty Value £6,938
1	10080-	GAELIC STORE (173) (H C Paring Cuts) M Johnston 4 10 8
2		MAGIC NELL (25) (D) (A S Seet) J L Eyro 58 B
		PERSIAN FAYRE (26) (C) (D) (Murray Grutt) J Burry 69 B
Ä	02-000	SABOT (18) (D) (Out Fleed) C Thornton 597
5	500.06	ALMORRAM (20) (CD) (M P Burkets Sin Settlement) M W Easterby 8 9 8
Ā	00-000	PIDIAN SPARK (17) Fresk Bridg J Golde 4 98 J F Egen 3
7	206540	HOMORE MR MICEGUY (12) (D) (Mr Carol P McPtail) E Alaton 4 9 5
8	430003	REDOUBTABLE (USA) (12) (D) (David W Chapman) D Chapman 788
B	000-80	THE LANGITON WORSE (10) (C) (Lord Durbarry D Smith 458
10	83222	DAYS ROCK (41) (D) (Gordon B Carringhan) R McRetar 4 7 El

— 10 contents —
DETTING: 7-2 Almehitum, 4-1 Namore Hr Histoger, 6-1 Davis Rock, Persian Feyre, 6-1 Hegic Mit,
5-4 Redoubteble, 12-1 Geelic Storre, 26-1 Sebot, 25-1 The Lengton Worst, 33-1 Indian Spark
1897: No corresponding race PERSIAN FAYRE indicated at Thirsk earlier the month that a return to form was immi-nent, lack Berry's seven-year-old stayed or really well to take advertiff place behind mul-tiple winner Hight Of Glass and today's contest tooks an easier assignment: (11-1) not much room 11 out, gradually weekened, 7th of 18, 5 lengths behind Night Of Glass (7)

hosp, good). He can reverse placings with Alexahistern (25-1) started stooly, reced learning stooly headway 2! but, ren on well leverate finish, 5th of 15, 4 lengths behind Night Of Glass, in April, Davie Rook, 61-1) led over 2! but tittli over 1! but, not quoten. 2nd of 15, 2/s lengths behind Night Of Glass at Think (7! heap, good to sort). Kleren Fallon teaming up with Nessore Mr Niceguy is a formidable combination. Sin Alston's minner (7-1) was close up until weakened and hampered approaching finel furlong, 9th of 11, 10 lengths behind Bentone at Think (8th hosp, good to firm) and this time can finish athead of Redoubtable 50-10 3rd of 11, 4/s inagints behind Benzon. Magint steep (6-7) outpaced over 11 out, 4th of 18, 5 lengths behind High Spirits at Think (8in hosp, good).

Selection: PERSIAN FAIRE

	4.20	FENWICK MAIDEN CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 2f Penetty Velus £2,248
1		PROPHETS PRIDE (199) (Mrs. Mar.cl Montalità P Montach 854
2		BADDI QUEST (Mag) U P Section) M Wine 892
3		TREDORIM (USA) USA) USA ALC BOYS P Horman 89 1
4		SHAMP SHOOTER (20) (Alan Thompson) S Kettevel 388
5		SHOWBALLS (12) (Cree Lodge Penng Club) Mess L Pernet 3 65
š		TOTAL TROPIX (IV) (IF) (II G Brachume) Me & Brachume 3 8 5
7	4-0030	RYEPELD STAR (10) Picket Airth J Berry 3 84
8	-09800	SAGER HERO (16) Dioritoste Lodge Perinechos) M British 3 8 1 D Marragh (7) 4
8	3-3015	LAST LAP (2) (this P & Nindstern) T Endarty 3 8 1 L Chernock 1 8 L Chernock 1
8	ETTING:	9-4 Total Tropic, 3-1 Snowballs, 5-1 Last Lap, 7-1 Ryellaid Size, 9-1 Trianniton, Sharp 3-1 Saner Harn, 20-1 others.

A works noe that could rest between Prefet GUIDE

A works nee that could rest between Prefet Star and LAST LAP, Jack Berry's charge
(16-1) was never dangerous, 12h of 13, 25 lengths behind Coenic Case at Musseburgh
(1m heap, good to 5m. Last Lap was prominent, outpaced approaching straight, headway over 31 out, every chance, one pace, 3rd of 15, 31/b lengths behind Musses at Redout (1m 61 mon hosp, good 10 firm).

Selection: LAST Lap 1967; Good Day S & Q Dean McKeann 15-8 (C Thomson) drawn (t) 4 mm

4.50 KILMACOLM HANDICAP (CLASS F) E3,000 added 3YO
1 30452 ALBERT REGERT (18) (S A 8 Directors) P Hoders 9 7:
2 001 WINGS AWAPIDED (17) (The Drove Minds Syndicate) M Charmon B 8
3 200-00 ON THE MAT (40) (Clayton Bigley Pertourable Ltd) J.J. Chief & T
4 0000-8 THE CAMBE ROVER 549 (Mrs E Rived) M.W Emiletty 8.8
5 508-50 PLEASANT DREAMS (17) Lim Blot) D Smits 89
8 6-003 THOROTOUN PER LE (7) (W M Johnstone) J Golde 87 Dean McKnown
7 O4440 BAYLHAM (7) (Tough Construction Ltd) J Goldo 84
8 000-0 SHOTLEY MARKE (7) U.A. Serriburnel N. Bycoott 82 S Malorey
5 600-00 AMAZORGAN (ZE) (GLy Read) C Thurston S 0 L Charmock
TO COS-80 BITUITIVE (18) Cloin R Ashould J L Eye 7 12
11 080-00 DESTRE'S GOLD (7) [Med Britter) M Brittain 7 10
12 000-00 LADY ROCKSTAR (17) (The Five Star Partnesship) M Ryan 7 10
- 12 deciared -
BETTING: 7-2 Wings, Americad, 6-2 Assists Regard, 7-1 Thorstous Belle, Beyfism, 6-1 The Caro Royer, Intuitive, 10-1 On The Mist, Pleasent Dreams, 14-1 others

Araber Regent (8-2) headway 3' out, stayed on well towards their, 2nd of 13, 2% longitis behind Shamweri Song at Beverity (7' divines, pood). Wiege Americad (22-1) always prominent, led inside final furting, driven out, won at Windsor (1m cleines, good) beating Threshe Ci Dreeme by 1 length, 18 ran. On The Met (20-1) 10th of 12, 25 lengths behind Heats. Le Viets at Museulouph (1m 4 leng, good to firm). The Camine Review (6-7) belind, some headway 3t out, never reached leaders, 6th of 8, 8 lengths behind Killemey Juzz at Southwel (1m midn heats, filtereand) in February. Pleasant Dreemas (20-1) was in tour until weekened 3' out, 10 th of 17, 29 lengths behind Ardeigh Chemner at Reduct (1m 2f heats, good). THORNITOUN BELLE (20-1) was always chasing leaders on the stands side, lept on one final 2t; 3nd of 20, 3% lengths behind Shamwest Song at Newcastle (1m heat some rece, not neotwer, 10th of 20, 12 lengths behind Shamwest Song at Newcastle, huiteline (4-1) hung left most of way, need show stands side, always behind, last of 13, 25 lengths behind Shamwest Song at Beverley (7t cleimer, good).

Selection: THORNITOUN BELLE

French Derby betting **Latest Derby betting** Croco Rouge Second Empire "2-1 "7-4 Cape Verdi "94 94 5-2 3-1 6-1 5-1 5-1 9-2 Greek Dance King Of Kings 8-2 11-2 13-2

Saratoga Spr	ings 7-1	10-	1	_	Sadian			10	-1	
Gulland	11-1	10-		8-1	Seutino			10	-1	
Hanni	12-1	12-	1_	10-1	Prolix			12	-1_	
Border Arrow	18-1	14-	1	14-1	Third Of He	werts.		12	-1	
High-Rise	20-1	20-	1_	16-1	Dream Wel	1		20	-1	
Courteous		25	1_	16-1	Rabah			20	-1	
	ת פ ומוער	JET .			Contral Par	rik		25	-1	
			_					_	_	_
First st	ow									
	iow				Hosp	c	H		s	Ī
First si	C H		5	ī	Horse Cantic Store	C 14-1	H 12-1	L 19-1		T 11-1

Sky might miss Wokingham

tering Sky is oot certain to run in next month's Wokingham Handicap at Royal Ascot.

92 51 51 61 51

92 51 84 51 54

dia Payra 11-2 4-1 5-1 8-2 8-2

The John Dunlop-trained colt, entered at Linefield on Saturday, headed bookmakers' opening show of betting oo the Royal Ascot sprint after he was handed 9st 5lb when the weights were published yesterday.

He caught the eye when an unlucky-in-running second to World Premier at York a fortnight ago but Duniop's racing secretary Marcus Hosgood said: "He is not a certain runner."

Royal Hunt Cup betting

William Hills: 12-1 Pasternek, 16-1 For Your Eyes Only, Publicented, 20-1 Crumpton Hill, Dernaway, Gulf Shandi, Rahoen, Selfish, 25-1 buc.

		_
Bright	on	1
		-
2.10 King F	HYPERION New 2.40 Zvao 3.10 Meliors 3.	40
Haroldon 4.	oley 2.40 Zygo 3.10 Mellors 3. 10 Cry For Freedom 4.40 Anoka	to

GOING: Firm (watered). STALLS: Im 4f – outside, remeinder – inside. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

SIRLE: 111 - CUSTS, without the latest part of the property of the part of the

2	.10 EBF NOVICE MEDIAN AUCTION
1	OS KING FOLEY AN ACT W.G.M. Turner 86
2	19 EWENNY (12) (BF) J Emisco S 1
3	055 CAPTAIN MILLER (18) M Chemon 8 12T Culina
4	7 DELYMANE UP R Hannon 8 12
5	A PORTET (23) G1 Moore 8 12
8	SI LA TAVERNETTA (2) (CD) 8 Mechan 8 8
	-8 declared -

BELTINGS 9-4 Exhibits, 7-2 King Poley, 4-1 Littlements, 11-2 Ed and 18-1 Polest, 8-1 Captain Miller
2.40 SHOREHAM CLASSIFIED STAKE (CLASS F) £3,250 added 7f

Е	3 10	FLANAGAN AND ALLEN HANDICAL (CLASS F) 23,250 added 1m
Ľ	2.15	(CLASS F) £3,250 added 1m
1		
2	TELEVISION	SAIDTHER STATES AND NO. BY COLUMN SECTION OF SHARE
3		
4	437711	ARREST 1771 1779 C Developed A RN
š.	5192	MENDOZA (47) (D) P Michel 498
Ť	-0815	Married Willery New York May 1 Card 3 d D****** At a constant.
8	TIME.	RAILERITA MAC D Defen 33 ft
5	wan.	
w	THE REAL PROPERTY.	AND THE PERSON OF THE PROPERTY
"	99944	MELTI FRANCHSE (JIS) (CD) R Flower 588
ã	. Mn.ar	Alkalie SCHOLAR (40) (D) 81 shorts 88 Candy Monte 13 DOUBLE-RUSH (5) (C) T Mile 8 8 8
ŭ	uuun	MADE SAME (NO NA MA DICHAM) KK O COMPAN
5	800	RHAPSODY IN SLUE (212) A Turnel 384N Cardiste

-15 declared -BETTING: 3-1 Melicos, 11-2 Junilles Scholat, 13-2 Anient, 7-1 Junilles, 5-1 Staster Charles, Without Friends, 10-1 Rejed, 12-1 others

3.40 SEAFORD SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) 52,500 added 1m 4f

7	0005-0	OFF THE RAILS (20) J Portner 4 8 TJ
2	0-6416	HAROLDON (2) (D) B Paling 86 13 (Car)
3	000-65	URGENT REPLY (USA) (30) (D) C Dwyer 5 8 2 F Lyrach 1 Y
ī	13400	SOVEREIGN CREST (238) (CD) C Horper 5 B2.D Herrison 14 Y
5	0.00	RESE ABONE (17) R Simpson 48 10
3	24006	EASY VERTUE (5) G L Moore 3 B 8
7	0540-5	SELECT STAR (J24) G McCourt 46 8 R Skutholina (7) 10 8
5	00-00	MARTLA (17) R Harmon 3 8 7
3	OMEO.	RATH KINGSHIT LHS) G'L Micora 582
10	SANON.	CHET CATALAN (244) Mrs L James 7 8 2. A MCCRETY (4) 4 Y
н	322000	HIGHBURY LEGERO (17) Bob Jores 5 8 U Promon a
ø	822-04	CONTEC'S LEGEND (10) (D) J Pearce 8 8 5 U HARM 11
<u>_</u>	00000-	MEGA TID (J43) J R Pouton 67 13 R Mullen (4) 8

others
4.10 REGENCY MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (F) £3,250 added 3YO 1m 1 03-08 FLAME TOWER (\$0 R Herron 9 0
- 8 deciered BETTING: 1-2 Soft Totach, 9-2 Mise Hillelds, 7-1 Cry For Freedom, 3-1
Places Tower, 33-1 Perscape
4.40 CLAYTON HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added 6f

Britain supplied four of yesterday's 10 acceptors for the Group Two Prix on Gros-Chene over five furlangs at Chantilly on Saturday. The quartet are the Brian Mee-han-trained Easycall, Neville Callaghan's Danetime, William Muir's Almaty and Ian Balding's Halmahera. Michael Tebbutt is set to ride Easycall with John Reid on Almaty and Olivier Pesher Halmahera. Other acceptors include King's Stand Stakes hope Sainte Marine, five-length winner of the Group Three Prix de n-Georges at Longchamp for Robert Collet and last Friday's Baden-Baden winner Dyhim Diamond, Bakiing hopes Halmahera will bounce back to form, hav-ing finished only fifth when favourite for the Field Marshal Stakes at Newmarket on his reappearance. "I was a bit disappointed with him at Newmarket," the trainer admitted. "But I think he needed the race. He has come on a bit since then but it looks a very hot race no Saturday."

Uttoxeter

HYPERION 2.00 Barton Chic (nb) 2.30 Grange Court 3.00 SHAHBOOR (nep) 3.30 Super Rapler 4.00 Sun Alert 4.30 Warren Boy 5.00 Glacial Missila

GOING: Good to Firm (retering).

GLINCH GOOD to Firm (retering).

GLINCH GOUTS RUN-In of 170yds.

GCOUTS & SE at fown near 85077. Utbacker station (Derby-Crawe fire) adoles course ADMISSION. Club 515 (CAPS \$12); Tatteradis \$10 (CAPS \$17; Centre of course 15. CAR PARIC Free.

GLEADING TRANSPES: M Pipe 35-141 (27%). & Broothsteer 8-80 (22.7%), Miss H Keight 17-82 (20.7%), Miss J Pisson 18-81 (15%).

GLEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCory 25-704 (20.7%), N Williamson 14-133 (10.5%).

GLEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCory 25-704 (20.7%), N Williamson 14-133 (10.5%).

GLEADING FIRST TIME: None.

	A AN MORE FROME GROUP NOVICE HURDS
	2.00 MOBILEFONE GROUP NOVICE HURDI (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 4f 110yo
	(
- ,	1 6-521 APPA SEVENTH E49 KD J Newto 7 2 0 R Joine
	2 F-4P'S CALCINILAN (68) N Handeson 7 tl 7 A Pizzen
	3 1863P2 FILTHE SEL (6) M Poe 8 H 7 C Man
	4 000 COMMANDO DANCER (15) JAMESOS 110 FI Supp
	5 SCHOOL SLEETING (ZY) J Marchin 5 TI 0. E Hosbard
	8 000-85 AUTUAN FLAME (17) HF Browner 7 10 9 M Brown
	7 OP22 BARTON CHIC (45) S Brookshaw 8 10 8S Wym
	8 2000 DAISY (105) May J Planton 5 10 9 B Cliffo
	8 -52540 SISTER ROSE (26) 2 Golden 7 10 8 D Golden
	-9 declared-
	BETTING: 5-2 Colon Law, 7-2 FM The Bib, 4-1 Serton Chic, 9-2 April Se
	anth 7.4 Palme 44.4 Claim Bress 48.4 Anti- Bress 78.4 others

2.30 MOBILEFONE GROUP NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 3m 2f
1 1PP2U GRANGE COURT (15) I Williams 8 12 0 C Mande
2 OPESP CHERRY CRCHID (29 JR Hughes 11 11 2 G Hope
3 143642 DESIGNED BREDGE (15) (C) Mrs S Johnson 8 TI 2.R Johnson
4 4P34P5 DUNUR (8) P Rodiord B 11 2 S Barrough
5 1PESR4 HERRY BRUCE (16) CA Strict 8 Ti 3V Shaker
8 48265 PRESSA (S) W Cay 7 T 8 NA Fitzgersk
7 035 OF SPACEAGE GOLD (184) (D) J OLI 8 11 2 C Denning
8 2231 DOUBLE BUCK (74) W Kemp 6 10 11 B Power
- 6 decired
BETTHIC: 6-4 Grange Court, 7-2 Denting Bridge, 5-2 Spaceage Gold

5-1 Prusale, 10-1 Double Buck, 20-1 Henry Broca, 25-1 Cherry Crobid,

3.00 MOBILEFONE GROUP NOV	CEHCAP
HURDLE (CLASS E) ES,000	200eu 2m
1 434222 DOWN THE YARD (5) (0) M Chapmen 5 H 10	W Wartingson
1 WASK DOME THE BOD ON TO WE GIRDING IN A	* Harbard Mt
2 36522 SOLDER MAK (26) J Mackie 5 118	C Lamberton (s)
3 F506 SO XEEN (73) A Bally 5 11 8	- S NYONE
S DOM SHAHEOOR REAL (18) Mis P Robeston 4 11 6	- Pichards
8 SPE20 PRAME MINISTREL (FS) (D) R Dickn 4 11 5.	C Liverally in
7 435222 HEART (44) Mes H Knott 5 TI 5	
8 3PP1 BARANOV (7) H Home 8 1 5 (780	M A Fizzand
8 1PESS CEPCLE OF MAGIC (49 M For 4 11 3.	E Thomas R
5 IPESS CREATE OF BALLS HAS MITTER AND	M Character
TO COCCESS SELENT ACTION (LISA) (15) N Smith 8 11 1_	
1 OPDAP DEFICULT DECISION (101) Nas M. Jones 7 &	E Hogen
2 02503 FLOODS FANCY (12) LBerret 5 10 12	T COMMAND (b)
13 604-63 MOOR HALL LADY (20) A Carrol 7 10 TI	W Maraton
14 63450F ADMIRAL'S GUEST (19) W Cay 6 107	R Johnson
	G Votoc
& OOLDO KING OF SWING (20) V Scare 8 TO 7	2 Ew
16 G/FCO MARROWERT LADY (455) Mas L Davis 7 10 8	
- 10 DECEMBED -	- no 124
Minimum weight: 10st. Thus handlesp weight: Marrowlet Li	A Caldina Mail

BETTHS: 4-1 Bersnow, 5-4 Heard, 8-1 Circle Cf Magic, 7-1 Sold 8-1 Down The Yerd, 10-1 Shabboor, Sees Action, 12-1 others

3.30	MOBILEFONE GROUP HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m 5f
-33U5P	SPANISH LIGHT (157) (D) Br J Barlow Bt 8 12 0A Dobbin
205-23	BRIGHTER SHADE (49 (C) (D) Ms M Revoley 5 to 0G Lee RUSTIC AR (22) (D) J REServed 11 TL 3
2-8FF4 2F3351	BENDOR MARK (40) (D) M Withson 9 10 19

ſ	4.00	MOBILEFONE GROUP HANOICAP HURDLE (C) £5,500 added 3m 110yds
		ALGARAWAAN (586) (D) C Marin 9 11 12C Llowelly 11
2	0-3211	COURT CIRCULAR (18) (CO) W Chy 8 11 1 R Johnson V
3		WHO'S PRIDE (12) (C) R Holinshead 7 to 7 Gary Lyons
4		MOONLIGHT AIR (20) (9F) J Spentry 7 107,M A Flagwoold 8
5	43121	SUN ALERT (USA) (11) (C) M Polglese 4 10 3
5	554516	PETTAUGH (26) (D) G Hubbard 10 10 5Michael Brancan V
7		WREXENGALE (600) (C) (D) Mrs J Pirmen 8 10 8 _B Chillond
3		ULURU (13) (CD) C Mortock 10 10 0
		A decident

Minimum weight: 10st. True handloop weight: Peliaugh 9st 11th, Weilangele Set 10th, Clury Fet 20: SETTIME: 5-2 Court Circular, 7-2 Moonlight Ak, 4-1 Sun Alert, 13-2 Pel-taugh, 7-1 Wint's Pride, 10-1 Algalanesse, 12-1 Wretengels, 20-1 Unio

4.30 MOBILEFONE GROUP NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) 21,500

		added 2m 5f	
1	ZIIDF	WARREN BOY (15) T L Jorge S 12 10Miles P Jone	
2	31214	HIJONSTOWN LASS (15) (D) 7 Heliod 8125 Mr R Wells	į
3		JORITACCOURT (19) (19) Mit FNeedram 8120 Mits FNeedle	
4		MOSTYN (11) J Tuck 7 128 My B Starte	
5		RADIO DAYS (26) (BF) H Lats 7120 Mr J July	
8		SPREDY DAN (25) R Mathias 6 to 8	
7		TYPHOON (24) May E Coversy 8 12 0May E Covers	
		YERY DARRING (5) Mas & Sharrett 8 12 5 _Miss & Sharre	
5		HATTON FARM BABE (87) Mas Nothry 7 11 8 May 2 Nother	
.10		HONEST EXPRESSION (15) Mas C Darris 8 118 Jan 8 Balant	
		MISS DIOR (11) MF Harding 8 18 9 _ Mr 2 Bartool-Saus	
		RARITY YEE (12) R Color 7 118 Mr J Own	
		SINGH SONG (32) R Chandler 8 11 8	
14		DUNISTON SLICK (45) TWARE TO 11 7 Mr J R Barto	
		- 14 declared -	

5.00 MOBILEFONE GROUP MAIDEN OPEN

_	THE LEWI CHOF (OFFICE II) TI'SM
	added 2m
80	BALLINA BOY (26) J PizGerald 5 115F Leaby (3
00	GREAT POTENTIAL (14) P Beaumont 6 11 5
RS	KELGAL (8) A Holingsworth 8 11 5
8	MCOFFIALL LAD (15) A Carol 6 11 8
	PRAIRE MOVAN (24) O Braves 5118
	WIDE AWAKE (NZ) (24) C Warm 5 115
	WILL ASSUME (112) R Brazington 8 115 R Meaney (3
	BROOKTHORPE (24) N Michel 5 118
	CHIEF WARDANCE (81) Max 8 Lamprison 4 11 8 Magae (3
	GLACIAL MISSILE (12) 8 Eckley 5 118 L Curreins (5
	DOLD DROP (15) H Multimax 4 11 0 D Gallages
ň	MANOLITO (24 M Wildram 4 11 0 R Thomps
80	MERZOUGA (24) 8 Preson 4 11 0
-	MIGHT THERAPY (40) A Baley 5 11 0S Wyres
	DESCRIPTION TO THE AND THE AND THE PROPERTY OF
25	ELYTHE LAUY (12) T WAL 4 109 G Brade
œ	MAID ON THE BELL (78) M Chapman 4 10 8 W Worthington - 18 declared -

BETTING: 9-4 Giacial Mastie, 4-1 Wide Avaka, 5-1 Prairie Indian, 12-1 Ballies Boy, Nanoliko, Hight Therapy, Hythe Ledy, 16-1 others

ANTE-POST punters were Wokingham betting

Telepholem 2-1 2-1 2-1 2-1 2-1

Indian Spark 25-1 33-1 33-1 33-1 33-1

C Coupt, H Williams Will, L. Lacturoless, S Sterving, T Total

Each way a fifth the orbits, places, 1, 2, 3

Perryston View, Index in participation of the Committee o

Courte 14-1 Pleatermak, 15-1 Pautmented, Intifiduda, Telifs WM, 20-1 Brave Research, Dermanday, For Your Eyes Only, Removement Stag, Pleaten, Ramooce, Sellich, Showbood, Star Invatcier, 25-1 bar.

Smart, Harsey, Scient, 23-1 der.
Ludierokeer, 10-1 Pesterniet, 16-1 Demeny & Cutt
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Crist, Rudinante, Halbern, West, Selferh & Braver Rewerd, 25-1 ber.
Toter, 10-1 Pesterniet, 16-1 Demenuey, For Your Eyes
Crist, Gulf Shead, Rahvert & Rudinantet, 20-1 ber.

CARTMEL

Lucinda V Russell, Tota: £3.70; £1.30, £2.80. DF; £11.90, CSF: £24.47. Non Runner: Good

Results

FOLKESTONE

SSB11 Title: \$28.80. NR: The Honorable Lady.
4.10: 1. FRANKIE FAIR (P Robinson) 81; 2. Petunites 14-1; 3. Fallentberg 33-1: 12 rat. 3-1 fav Langthin 6th), 5, 3%. (M Janvis; Tota: \$28.0; \$28.0, \$2.0; \$29.0; \$25.0 per won, pool of \$248.54 to Ayr 3.50 today. NRs: Contrare Edge, Moving Un.
4.40: 1. SUPPRIME SOUND (S Sanders), 4.40: 1. SUPPRIME SOUND (S Sanders), 8-1; 2. Secret Spring 9-4 fax; 3. Sovereigns Court 9-1: 10 rans, 21%. (P Harnis Tota: \$2.0; \$

YARMOUTH

YARMOUTH

2.20: 1. MUTAHAB (R Hills) 15-8; 2. Cuein 5-4 inc; 3. Mirmesons 5-1.3 ran. 2%, 4 (E Durlop). Toke: 23-40; £150, £140. DF: £220. CSF: £422.
2.50: 1. LUCKY ARCHER (W R Swinburs) 11-4; 2. Delintine 20-1; 3. Miczzoramio 15-2. 10 ran. 2-1 fav Qain Line. 3, 5. (J Brazley). Toke: £280; £120, £120, £120. UF: £5240. CSF: £5284. Tricest: £30851. Tric: £1200. 3, 201. 1. JALAAB (R Hills) 9-2; 2. The Editor 4-9 fax; 3. Headhumber 11-4. 4 ran. ½, ½%, (R Armstrong). Toke: £450. DF: £160. CSF: £557. NF: Carbbeen Monarch. 3,50: 1. SHOCKER (J Tane) 10-1; 2. Mangons). Toke: £450. DF: £180. CSF: £557. NF: Carbbeen Monarch. 3,50: 1. SHOCKER (J Tane) 10-1; 2. Mangons). Toke: £130: £300. £190. £200. DF: £2840. CSF: £3448. Tricest: £202.22. Hills: £5520.
4,20: 1. OPERATIC (J F Egan) 2-1 fax; 3. Tricest: £272.
4,50: 1. MAZEED (C Cogen) 5-2 fax; 2. Heibert Junction; 4-1; 3. Blockede 4-1, 13 ran. 3, ½%, J E earns). Toke: £30: £200. £150. £

Trio: \$1480. Piecepot: £20100. Quadpot: £2610.

2.00: 1. LASER LIGHT LADY (A Dobbin) 14-1; 2. Son Febry 8-1; 3. Bollero 11-8 tex. 11 mm. 2, 5. (M Waring). Rote: \$27.0; \$3.00, £2.90, £1.20, DF: £23.80, CSF: £91.38, Trio: £25.05, LT. Funky. 2230: 1240, DV: 13284 CSF: 23136 Info: 12350, RF: Funity, 2.30: 1, WISE ADVICE (L Wyer) 5-2 Jt fav; 2. Bilat Cautin 3-1; 3. Bilazing Down 9-2, 7 ram. 5-2, Jt fav. Lest Try (4th). 14, 16, (M Hammond) Tota: 2350; 2220, 2270, DF: 2130, CSF: 5208.

3.00: 1, WHITE DIABIOND (Mass P Roberty) 7-2; 2. Temple Genth 8-1; 3. Whitby 8-1, 5 min. 10-11 for Albert Bilate. 9, 8, (Mass Lurising V Bussell. That PSTD: 130, CSP.

FOLKESTONE

1.40: 1. THREE ANGELS (D Blogs) 132; 2. Gally MIL 8-4 faz; 3. Tackdya 8-1 13
ran. nt, 8. (M Tomphons, Totac 2500; £190, £190; £240, £240 £241 Forecast: £1410 Computer
Straight Forecast: £1640 Computer
Straight Forecast: £1640 Computer
Straight Forecast: £1640 Computer
5-1 11 ran. 4-5 fav Deep Space (Hth. 24, 11-1, 25, 25, 2500, 2500, £190

DF: CTISO, CSF: É2447. Non Runner: Good Profe.
3.30: 1, MUTASARRIF (R Johnson) 7-2;
2. Cherritrood Juck 5-1; S. J. J. Baboo 11-4 fau. 12 ran. 7, 5. (J. Dodds), Tota: 2530; 5210, 5220, 2530. DF: E4420. CSF: £2160. Trio: 8840.
4.00: 1. CYPRESS AVENUE (R Thom-ton) 3-1; 2. Distant Hills 8-4; 3. Rocket Run 11-9 fau. 7 ran. 7, 3. (Mrs V Ward), Tota: £420; £170, £440. DF: £430. CSF: £938.
4.30: 1. GREEN CRUSADER (R Thom-ton) 8-2; 2. Vilprano 6-4 fav. 3. Stylish Interior 2-1, 4 ran. 2-6, 13, 6 Mrs V Ward). Tota: £430. DF: £430. Quadpot: £5780.

ALEXARD LIDY NEWBURY NEWBURY

8.00: 1. KAAMEN (R 198) 5-1; 2. Infilts
15-8 fav; 3. Democracy 8-1.11 ran. 2, 1%.
(B Hambury). Tobe: ESO: 2.160, 2.170, 2.160.

6.25: 1. TARDIEN (K Falor) 6-4 fav; 2.
Dend Alina 4-1; 3. Silentity 10-1.6 ran. 5, 3%.
(K Garles). Tobe: 2.20; 2.150, 2.200. DF: 23:0.
CSF: ESIZE NF: Alb Alb.,
6.55: 1. BUTRINTO (K Falor) 7-1; 2. Bintang Timor 5-2; 3. Mai Tai 33-1; 4. Knetik 8-1. 13 ran. 11-2 tas Beyin 1%. 7%. (J
Peerce). Tole: 52:0; 22:00, 22:40, 23:60, 22:70.
DF: 213:30. CSF: CSIZES, Tricese: 51:56-483.
Thic: 23:38:90.

6.40: 1. CONWY LODGE (G Carter) evens fav; 2. Princely Dream 9-2; 3. Thus Les Jours 7-2, 10 tan. 2, 2/h. (J Barry). Total 8170: 120, 130, 130, 0. DF; 5550 CSF; 5552 Tric: \$10.50.

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Lewis must think carefully before choosing future direction

ORDINARILY, I'm inclined to let if he signs up with Showtime's powder was after defeating Tyson. I've boxing, as an industry, shift for it- erful rival, Home Box Office, for con- asked Panos Eliades [Lewis's main self. I have enough problems with- tests in the has-been league of Ray promoter] to think about this." out worrying about arguments Mercer and James "Buster" Douglas. between promoters, the outcome of

curring dream. In it, all disputes have been set aside and there is just one heavyweight champion. Nameless but undisputed.

Many in boxing claim to share the dream, including Jay Larkin of the American cable network Showtime which has Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson uoder contract.

When calling from New York this

Although HBO would release Don King's fraud irial or which tele- Lewis to Showtime if championship he is amiable, he operates on behalf vision outfit holds the upper hand. contests against Holyfield and Tyson of an organisation with close links However, I do admit to this re- came along Larkin sees no sense in to King who cannot make Lewis a the proposed alliance. "Lennox and counter offer while contesting the his people have until 6 June to de- charge that he defranded Lloyds of cide so there's still plenty of time for London. them to work out the value of independence," he said.

signs with HBO and goes on to be-ducked anyone. Holyfield disputed come the undisputed champion, he this recently when drimming up next would be obliged to defend under the terms of his agreement with them. week, Larkin's pitch was that Lennox But as a free agent he would be in against Henry Akinwande at Madi-

It is important to know where Larkin is coming from. As astute as

Making no stand for Larkin, one thought comes to me. It is based Lewis will be making a big mistake a position to call the shors as Evan- son Square Garden in New York.



Larkin puts it this way. "If Lennox on the notion that Lewis has never was put to Holyfield that Lewis held him entirely responsible wheo neweek's mandatory defence of his broke down Holyfield answered an match. That's the risk Lennox some of the opponents HBO are World Boxing Association title grily. "Lewis should ask himself should be prepared to take. Why proposingsome questions, Holyfield growled. should I take less money to fight him.

FIBO failed to meet Holyfield's defighting me is that it is easier to talk

Moorer piled up losses of around mand for a \$20m (£12.2m) guaran-tee. HBO offered Holyfield \$16m There is plus everything over 650,000 pay-per- all this will work out but it would view buys. Accounting for King's cut, be wise for Lewis to think careful-Lewis's purse of \$12m put the con- ly before settling on a direction.

Lennox really wants to be the undis-settle for being a money machine? puted champion, he should do "It's for Lennox to decide," Larkin what's necessary." hie said. "I took added. "His contests in the United less than I wanted for my first fight States haven't made hig mooey against Tyson because I believed I and people wouldn't be falling over could win and make more from a re-Negotiations for a unification I didn't work this hard to come down a big draw either, that was confirmed

There is oo way of knowing how Does Lewis really want to be known

Not that Holyfield on his own is

bout between Holyfield and Lewis two levels to prove myself. The for Showtime last November when fell through earlier this year when only thing preventing Lewis from a title defence against Michael only thing preventing Lewis from a title defence against Michael

Tyson is the one sure-fire seller but there is no guarantee that he will return to the ring if, as expected, his licence is returned in July. "Everything that is said and written about Holyfield blamed Lewis. "If as the best man out there or will he Mike suggests that he is no great hur-"And I think the groop he is working with now didn't realise what they

were getting into." I have never felt it necessary in these matters to take one side or another. Larkin goes about his business in accordance with rough traditions hut there may be more in his advice to Lewis than vested interest.

The final own goal in the tale of Goram

Scotland have long been used to the wild antics of their goalkeeper. But this week's revelations were enough to make even him walk away in disgust. Phil Gordon reports

THE only thing greater in Andy replaced those on the back page Goram's life than the love of a as the the goalkeeper's shock good time, is his love of cricket. So, perhaps Ian Botham, one of his sporting heroes, is best qualified to advise Scotland's errant goalkeeper on what to do next.

Goram's shock departure from the international scene just 14 days before the World Cup finals to avoid the glare of publicity that would make even Botham seem like a choirboy, is the final stroke in an eventrepresented his adopted country with both bat and hig ball.

might have realised his cher- ready perilous financial state. ished dream of representing taken over. Indeed, one of the first things Rangers had to do

have offered a safer diversion for Goram than the host of other pursuits that he filled his free time with. Drink, gambling and women ate away at his ability and fitness, and, more crucial-

ly, his mind. The 34-year-old's main reason for walking out on Scotland an old caravan. A further affair is that he believes the stress with a former porn actress last from recent revelations about July dragged his reputation furhis private life has wrecked his ther into the mire. mental preparations for the World Cup. Craig Brown, who tried to dissuade Goram from ending his 43-cap career, has been here before, of course.

Three years ago, Goram surprised Scotland supporters United. Smith had allowed his when he withdrew on the eve of a crucial European Championship qualifier with Greece, saylng he was not "mentally attuned" to do the job. That confession prompted terrace wits to later taunt the Rangers goalkeeper with chants of "There's only two Andy Gorams". But, in- Goram on the transfer list - an deed, the real one now appears

to have stood up. Goram does not cut an athletic figure, but even his stocky frame has been fuller of late af-

stock rose as his professional one plummeted. But Goram admits he largely has himself to blame.

Io his autobiography, he hinted at my "knack of hitting the self-destruct hutton". Two failed marriages, both wives citing gambling and drinking problems, are the source of his downfall. His second wife, Tracy, a croupier whom he met, ironically, at an Edinburgh casiful innings for the man who has no, served him with divorce papers as he filed off the team bus one day at Ibrox seeking The Bury-born goalkeeper £250,000, compounding his al-

The tabloids had a field day ing society had repossessed his house, but not as much as they after paying Hibernian £1m for enjoyed when a series of girlhim in 1991 was to ban him from friends emerged in kiss-and-tell playing cricket in case their stories as the footloose keeper new investment injured himself. failed patently to keep his pri-In hindsight, cricket might vate life in shape. Yet even Goram's love life seemed to be slipping out of the top flight.

Ooe of the first girls to "out" the goalkeeper told of sex sessions in a plush Glasgow botel but by last year a 17-year-old teenager made lurid claims about cavorting with Goram in

Through it all, Walter Smith stood by Goram, but even the Ibrox manager's patience wore thin when, in 1994, Goram went walkabout and missed the Scottish Cup final with Dundee goalkeeper to go on a family holiday to regain his fitness after an injury but Goram missed the flight back and ended up stranded in a Mediterranean resort without clothes or passport. His team-mates slid to a 1-0 defeat.

Smith subsequently put incident the keeper described as the "the most humiliating moment of my life".

ter a season of injuries. Head- his fitness, and the Scotland lines on the front page have goalkeeping place from Jim World Cup qualifying ties and it



Goram took the message to beart for a while and regained



underscored the meanest defence in Europe and was beat-

en only by the genius of Alan

Shearer and Paul Gascoigne. Colonyful is one way of certainly could not find a greater contrast to the bespectacled, family man Leighton, who will now wear the No I jersey against Brazil on 10 June in the opening game of the

World Cup finals. But that apparent blandness also makes Leighton something Goram, his long-time friend despite their rivalry, is not reliable. Mr Undependable played in none of Scotland's last seven

where his inspirational presence chosen him over Leighton again when the hig stage beckoned.

Once Goram's club form won him the nod over Leighton, but not even Rangers want him now. He conceded 41 goals in his putting Goram's lifestyle. You 36 Rangers starts this season, missing 16 games, and when the incoming manager, Dick Advocast, cast his eve over the Ibrox staff a few months ago, Goram's was not one of the names on the to-be-retained list.

The list of would-be suitors contained only Crystal Palace and Brescia and both of those clubs have now lost interest following their relegation from the Premiership and Serie A respectively.

More importantly, Goram portant than controversy," he

recently. A meagre total of eight shut-outs for Rangers last season did not do justice to the man whose performances against Celtic once prompted the former

manager Timmy Burns to de-

clare: "Put it on my tombstone: Andy Goram broke my heart." But breaking hearts of another kind is what might have led the premature obituaries being written now for Goram's career. The claim in a tabloid newspaper that Goram got a former Celtic sales executive pregnant and encouraged her to have an abortion - and another revela-

tion is in the pipeline - sparked his latest bout of troubled mind. "Contentment is more imsaid to Craig Brown in his resignation letter. Once Goram was rated the best goalkeeper around in one-to-one situations, being able to psyche out any striker. Now he seems incapable of winning the mind games with himself, as the ramblings of his letter to Brown further indicated, stating: "Yes, you

it upset Craig's plans." But upset Brown's plans he has. The Scotland coach said: "We had the best goalkeeping team in Europe in Andy and Jim and now it has been reduced by half." However, it may be that one, focused Leighton will prove better to the Scots' cause against Brazil than

have got to me. But I won't let

Brown defends keeper's decision

By Phil Shaw

CRAIG BROWN last night defended Andy Goram's sudden withdrawal from Scotland's World Cup squad as "an honourable decision" and refused to rule out picking him again.-despite the troubled goalkeeper's declared retirement from international football.

The Scotland manager, who welcomed Celtic's Jonathan Gould to their New Jersey training camp as back-up to Jim Leighton and Neil Sullivan, praised Goram for his selflessness and the timing of his announcement.

The 34-year-old Rangers and may join Crystal Palace, informed Brown on Tuesday that he was leaving. He felt that tabloid allegations about his pri-France 98, which Scotland open against Brazil oo 10 June.

think it's a dereliction of his boat before the '74 finals. trying to be fair to Scotland, they're wrong. This could have carried on past the date when we couldn't have brought in a replacement. So we have to give him credit for an early de-

"He could have stayed with us, gone on picking up his money and bonuses, and put us right in the soup in France. The decision he's made is an honourable one."

Goram, who also withdrew from a squad during the qualifying for Euro 96 claiming he was "oot mentally attuned", has joined Everton's Duncan Ferguson and Leeds' David Robertson in self-imposed exile from the national team. Brown, bowever, is neither so well off for specialist players nor churlish enough to write him off, "If Andy comes back to me and says his life is more settled, f'll consider him."

According to Brown, Goram's "brightoess" in practice contrasted with his untypically downbeat demeanour off the pitch. Goram had been "bomharded" by calls from non-sports journalists about his private life and the pressure had begun to tell.

Brown's assistant, the Aberdeen manager Alex Miller, brought the Lancashire-born Goram to Scotland from Oldham when he was with Hibernian. Miller said: "I spoke to

him privately and to me it. wasn't the same Andy." The latest twist in the soap

opera that has run parallel to Goram's career of 43 caps began 24 hours earlier. He had asked to speak to Brown at breakfast, explaining that first he wanted him to read a letterit. After studying its contents, Brown went to Goram's room

to find he had already packed to go home. "Andy said: 'I have to go.' I told him he was being a wee hit hasty hut he was adamant. His concern was for his team-mates and Scotland. He was very upset at having to give me that letter."

Some will see the Goram keeper, who is out of contract saga as part of Scotland's fabled capacity for self-destruction. Memories will be stirred of the Mo Johnston "hirds 'o' booze" episode at Italia 90; of Willie vate life were affecting his own Johnston being hanished from and the squad's preparations for Argentina in '78 after a positive drug test; and even of Jimmy Johnstone's tired-aod-emo-Brown said: "If people tional night at sea in a rowing

Goram clearly has problems, they are of a highly personal nature. The rest of the Scottish party here are more likely to be found on a rowing machine in the hotel gym than in a rowing boat. Their dedication is epitomised by Leighton, who at nearly 40 now becomes the undisputed firstchoice again. The Aherdeen keeper will gain his 86th cap against the United States in Washington DC on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Londonborn Gould said: "I was surprised to hear I was in the squad in Andy's place hecause I believe someone of his ability should be on the World Cup stage. He's taken a very brave decision and I hope it works out for him. But I've been keeping fit and I'm ready for this."

TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of consecutive Georgian football League and Cup doubles (1992-97) won by Dynamo Tbilisi. Having won the title again this year, their quest for a seventh successive double was scuppered on Tuesday when a goal in the last minute of extra time gave Dynamo Batumi a 2-1 win in the Cup final.

Bitter McCann launches attack on Dempsey

By Simon Buckland

THE Celtic managing director Fergus McCann yesterday used his club's official weekly publication to launch an astonishing attack on those he accuses of undermining him.

Speaking in Celtic View, Mc-Cann pointed the finger at being made. what he tenned the "PR stunts" from Brian Dempsey, a former hope Mr McCann took good leshareholder central to moves to gal advice before penning this huy out McCann's holding in article and that it was not writ-

the Parkhead club. McCann said: "It is oow clear that Brian Dempsey's prepared to sell Gary Pallister down a lucrative new four-year kic but have released Scott keeper. Neil Alexander.

of Celtic using a barrage of crit- ter the World Cup. icism and PR stunts is now underway, and will continue for

several months." McCann has pressure since the resignation of the club's manager, Wim Jansen, but he insists progress is still In reply. Dempsey said: "We

ten in a fit of petulance."

Manchester United are not

plans to attack the management back to Middlesbrough until af-

Bryan Robson, the Boro manager, has made a bid, believed to be worth £2m, for the former England central defender. United are considering the offer, but are in no hurry to let Pallister go. They want to wait and make sure Jaap Stam. who completes his £10.75m move to United from PSV Eindhoven oo 1 July, comes through the World Cup for the Netherlands unscathed.

to leave the club. Bosman ruling to move as a free Liverpool. Tottenham and Blackburn all being linked with possible attempts to sign him,

The French defeoder Rémi Garde, 32, has signed a new one-year deal with Arsenal after changing his mind about re- at Charlton Athletic. On Day's tiring from the game. The recommendation, Everton are Gunners have also given a new Steve Staunton has turned one-year contract to John Lu-muir's Scotland Under-21 goal-

contract with Aston Villa and is Marshall and Chris Kiwomya. The Italian international The Republic of Ireland de midfielder Roberto di Matteo fender will take advantage of the has told Chelsea he wants to stay at Stamford Bridge for the ageot, with his former club. foreseeable future - quashing media reports that he has been

lonking to return to Italy.

Evertoo's goalkeeping coach Mervyn Day, the former West Ham No 1, is in line to replace Les Reed as assistant manager paying £40,000 for Stenhouse-

@ \$ ○ ●

Croatia lose another striker THE Croatian striker Igor Cvitanovic has been sent home from his country's World Cup training squad by the coach, Miroslav Blazevic, after refusing

to run a few extra training laps.

"two Andy Gorams".

Cvitanovic, 27, who plays for the Spanish side Real Sociedad. will miss France 98 if Blazevic does oot have a change of heart. However, the player should not hold his hreath.

Blazevic, who is fanatical about discipline, said: "Cvitanovic is definitely climinated. Not even the President can and is almost certain to miss next save him now."

Cvitanovic said: "I was exhausted. It seems some can have the luxury of being worn down and f can't,", alluding to Davor Suker, Zvonimir Boban and Robert Jami, who were spared extra laps after complaining they were still worn out from a hectic club season.

Blazevic is considering calling up a substitute for the lanky forward. His 24-man squad are still shaken by the news that the inform striker Alen Boksic will have to undergo knee surgery month's finals in France,

Jürgen Klinsmann, who is fighting for a starting role in Germany's team, has been forced to miss tonight's warmup match against Finland in Helskinki because of a bruised shinbone.

Klinsmann collided with the defender Thomas Helmer in a training match on Tuesday and the soreness worsened. The 33year-old team captain, who has been plagued by injuries this year, was flown to Munich for treatment. However, he is not expected to be ruled out for the World Cup.

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Cricket scoreboan

By John Roberts

THERE is a tradition here for sportswear manufacturers to utilise the entire side of a building to promote a leading player. Jim Courier, Andre Agassi and Mary Pierce are among those who have been featured in the past. This year a Brazilian dominates Porte d'Auteuil, a stroll away from Roland Gar-

Opeo champion, but Ronaldo. stay focused on the tournament," Kuerten said, "and if 1 his left arm extends to the side an an adjacent building. Whether he will arrive in person to watch his the progress of his friend

Kuerten is open to doubt Although the Brazilian squad's training headquarters is only half an hour's drive from Roland Garros, Kuerten has resisted invitations to visit them, and he hopes, respectfully, that the footballers will not crowd his court.

"I would love to see the playros. The figure is not Gustavo ers, but I will not go to their Kuerten, the defending French training ground because I must

ment," Kuerten said, "and if 1 see them at Roland Garros I will tell them to go away and practise, because I want them to win the World Cup."

"Gustavo is hnlf-joking about sending them away," said Paulo Cleto, Brazil's Davis Cup captain, "but he needs to concentrate on his game. If he is still involved in the later stages of the tournament next week, he would like to stay on in Paris to see Brazil's opening match [against Scotland]. But, at this stage, that is only supposition."

against Marat Safin, the tall, powerful, 18-year-old Russian who eliminated Andre Agassi in five sets on Tuesday.

Kuerten's determination to do himself justice, having failed to win a title during the 12 months since his spectacular triumph here, has been disguised by a generally relaxed attitude. His dealings with the French media during the lead-up to the champinnships has earned him their "prix orange" award.

The "prix citron" has been

to play his second round match favourite to relieve Knerten of his litle, if not his Mr Nice Guy image. Rios has the dubious distinction of becoming the first player to be voted the lemon three years in a row. It should be emphasised that these awards are judged on media cooperation, not on behaviour on the court. Otherwise, how would Mats Wilander's name

appear on the roll of lemons? Not that Rios would be likely to worry overmuch if he received lemons in perpetuity as rankings in April, and his next long as his ability to play termis opponent, the South African

It is. Today Kuerten is due awarded to Marcelo Rios, the remained unimpaired. Yesterrain delays to advance to the third round by defeating Spain's Emilio Alvarez, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2, the Chilean expressed satisfaction with the power in his elbow.

"I've been much better every day," he said. "Always at night it's a little bit sore and I have to have some massage and take some pills, but its much better than it was two weeks ago."

The elbow injury cost Rios his No 1 position in the world

Wayne Ferreira, defeated him day, having escaped the worst of in his opening match on returning to the ATP Tour in Hamburg three weeks ago. "I think this is the nice thing about this sport, when you get a rematch." Rios said. "It's really exciting to play Ferriera again and try to beat him."

Courier, the champion in 1991 and 1992, was eliminated in the second round by Germany's Jens Knippschild, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3, and Australia's Mark Philippoussis was outlasted by the Czech Bohdan Uhhrach, 3-6, 6-7, 7-5, 6-4, 9-7.

Martina Hingis and Veous Williams, who are seeded to meet in the women's quarterfinals, advanced to the third round unhindered. It has been argued that a case for equal prize-money with the men might be made from the quarter-finals onward. Yesterday was "childreo's day" at Roland Garros and child's play for the two 17-year-olds. Hingis defeated Germany's Meike Babel, 6-1, 6-2, and Williams swept past Ai Sugiyama, of Japan, 6-0, 6-2, winning the first eight

Lehmann leaves Durham gloomy

Cricket

By Jon Culley at Headingley

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Yerkshire 269-5; Durham 167 Yorkshire win by 102 runs

HAVING made it to the last eight in the last year of the Benson and Hedges Cup, Durham's chance of reaching the semi-finals vanished in gloom and shire's 50-over total - built ago, was offered the chance to around the Gold Award winner Darren Lehmann's forceful 119 might oever have been within the scope of a Durham side lacking the injured John Morris but their captain, David Boon, might nonetheless wonportunity at least to delay the inevitable.

The Tasmanian batsman, still in some discomfort after drizzle here yesterday. York- breaking a toe only two weeks last Sunday's Texaco Trophy

Brilliant Maddy brushes Kent aside a horreodous start in which they lost two wickets for two

Leicester

Kent 158; Leicestershire 159-2 Leicestershire win by eight wickets.

ON A pitch that had been designer-made for their stronghand of seam bowlers, Leicestershire woo an important toss and then outplayed Keot viriially from first ball to last to win their Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final by eight wickets here vesterday.

Because of the conditions, excitement was in pretty short supply for much of the day, that is until Darren Maddy, with an unbeaten 93 from 129 balls, and Phil Simmons took their side home with 12 overs to spare with some powerful and exotic strokes. .

·Maddy was brilliant, in his footwork, technique and, more Soften than not, stroke execution, although he needed some luck on this pitch. At just 24 he is clearly a high class performer.

For poor Kent it was a cautionary day indeed, but there will be those north and south of the Medway who may query the toss being so influential in a game of this nature.

Kent, though, will look back and feel their approach against the seaming, bouncing ball left something to be desired, not least in their decision to send in Matthew Fleming in the fifth

over to try one of his bravura knocks better suited to flat pitches after Trevor Ward had gone. Unsurprisingly it was not long before he was caught off a skier.

By then Robert Key had also gone, superbly caught one handed by Ben Smith off a more authentic stroke, and when Alan Wells was leg before to a ball of full length there no way back from 32 for 4 in these conditions.

Alan Mullally, moving the ball around from over and round the wicket, and James Ormand induced regular playing and missing; even Carl the middle of the bat and remed balls before he was last out. Simmons' accurate medium

pace was no less easy to cope with, and there was a hint of panic even in the dismissals of Mark Ealham aod Graham Cowdrey. Without 55 extras, the second time this season Leicestershire have established a record for the competition, where would Kent have been?

The rest belonged to Maddy. He began by square-cutting Ben Phillips for six and ended by hitwas Phillips' luck to miss him in the gully off Fleming. In the same over, Maddy lifted Fleming out of the ground and Kent's hearts must have sunk even more.

retreat to the dressing-rooms as what had been a sunny sky disappeared behind a hlanket of grey. Durham at the time were 61 for 2 and the light was never to improve noticeably.

The decision to stay on did der why he turned down the on- not look at all elever when his own departure precipitated a collapse in which the last seven Durham wickets fell for 79 in 15 overs oo the pitch used for match. Simon Brown could not bat because of a knee injury that may need surgery.

Yorkshire's total concealed runs in the opening two overs after Boon had put them io. Melvyn Betts delivered the first blow, inducing Alex Me-Grath to give a catch to Booo himself at first slip, Then Brown, playing his first competitive cricket of the season, had the Yorkshire skipper, David Byas, caught behind.

Brown later had to be helped from the field in pain but oot before he had bowled his 10 overs unchanged for only 28 runs. Although Lehmann hit him for three fours in one over, he was the only Durham bowler Lehmann and Michael Vaugh-Hooper could not always locate ship that grew from careful nology. Unforturately it could Rollins' meaty blows added 55 the innings with a hat-trick, rehimself in to make 60 from 102 ty competition record for the rain from delaying the start, a taken at short extra cover by Kei- and Glenn Chapple with the

The Australian survived one sharp chance to point when he was on 36 but that was the only opportunity offered to the visiting side before Vaughan, in an attempted sweep, became the first of two victims for the former Sussex off-spinner Nicky Phillips. The duo added 184 in

Lehmann, who cleverly picked the gaps in the field and hit the ball with increasing powting him back over his head for er as his confidence grew, three successive fours. At 28, it reached 119 off 133 deliveries. hitting 13 fours before a brilliant catch behind the wicket denied him any more. For good measure, he took the last two Durham wickets to boot.



Lancashire's John Crawley keeps out Ben Hollioake against Surrey at The Oval yesterday

Robinson's form is Lancashire fall away no match for Fraser after Atherton goes

By Derek Pringle

WITH its oew hover cover and telly off the Smash advert, card. Yet crazy as the ploy apan did not profish to a partner- Lord's was awash with tech- peared on a seaming pitch, beginnings to establish a coun- not prevent heavy overnight with Stuart Law before he was moving Gary Yates, Ian Austin reaching 93 in 109 balls. situation that was always going to prove tricky to the team batting first, in this case Essex.

On a pitch with some spice in it, the visitors lost Darreo Robinson to the fifth ball of the match. Robinson has been in fine form this season, with thee one-day hundreds. Yet form, for all the comfort it can bring, was no insurance against the beauty Middlesex's Angus Fraser produced to find the edge and have him caught behind.

Nasser Hussam, Essex's acting captain in place of the injured Paul Prichard, followed next, though not before he had eased Fraser for a couple of offside boundaries. Lazily, flicking

Sporting Digest

The South African Olympic champion Josia Thugwene will not take part in the marathon at the Commonwealth Gemes in Kuala Lumpur in September.

Athletics

caught by Mark Ramprakash at By Henry Blofeld square leg.
Two overs later and 40 yards

deeper, the Middlesex captain IN AN extraordinary collapse a half-constructed futuristic dropped Robert Rollins on one media centre that looks like a as Essex played the pinch-hitting

Middlesex have not appeared in a B&H Cup semi-final for 12 years and their chances of doing so soured with the dismissal of the dangerous Law, six runs later for 40. The Australian well caught by his fellow countryman, Justin Langer, in the gully.

At 100 for 4, Essex badly needed a partnership. Instead they lost both Ronnie Irani and Paul Grayson, their last bastions of experience in quick succession. But although that did not prevent the latter order led by Stephen Peters from adding runs; it will need a penetrative performance by their bowlers to-Fraser off his legs, he was day for Essex to proceed further.

at The Oval

on a pitch which beld no devils. Lancashire subsided from 164 for 2 to 203 all out in 13 overs. Saglain Mushtag ended the 50th over.

Only half a day's cricket was

possible hut there was enough entertainment to satisfy the first, it looked as if a superb innings by Mike Atherton, at his very best, was going to send Lancashire to a formidable total. Then, four wickets fell in 21 balls for four runs. This collapse was preceded by an unfortuoate and unhappy incident. In the 37th over Atherton half drove Martin Bicknell and the bowler got both hands to the catch low to his left. After some juggling, Bicknell dropped the catch,

ter it had hounced and theo claimed the wicket.

Alan Whitehead called in the third umpire to adjudicate and the replay showed clearly that the ball had bounced. Two balls later. Atherton was flow trying to play Bicknell off his legs, a trifle testily maybe, after

In the next over, Ian Salisbury hit Graham Lloyd on the pad and Neil Fairbrother starting for his single, was sent back and thrown out by Alex Stewart. Later in the over Lloyd was most demanding customer. At caught behind off a sharply turning leg break and in Salisbury's oext over Wasim Akram swept to deep square leg.

Earlier, Atherton's batting had been a delight. It has been a long time since one has seen him play with quite this aothority. He was oever in doubt and played some lovely strokes oo both sides of the wicket including one rippling leg glance. He and John Cawley added 122 in 24 overs for the second wicket and, nnusually, Atherton looked half a class the better.

Fine and ban for Gregory

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

THE Salford coach Andy Gregory, has been fined and banned from the touchline for the remainder of the season for abusing match officials.

The former Great Britain international pleaded guilty in Leeds yesterday to two charges of foul and abusive language, one relating to the game against Huddersfield oo the 10th May and the other for remarks aimed at the referee Steve Gansoo during the game against Sheffield 11 days ago.

A sub-committee of the league's board of directors invoked a suspended fine of £1,000 imposed for criticising a referee last season and fined him a further £1,500, suspended for a year.

Gregory dampened speculatioo that the decision might make him resign from his job at The Willows.

"I'll pay the fine grudgingly hut I've oo argumeot with Salford and I never said I would

quit," he said. Gregory will be without ooe squad member for some time, Mark Lee being found to have

a broken jaw. Meanwhile, Dave Harrison, the Holl KR coach, has been scverely reprimanded after remarks about the referee, Ronnie Laughton, which in-

cluded calling him "a clown". Wigan are showing interest in Western Samoa union winger, Brian Lima, and Australian util-

ity player, Greg Florimo. The London Broncos will be without five players including Martin Offiah for tomorrow's match at Bradford, but Offiah has been cleared of any hroken bones in his ankle.

The first domestic competition in Scotland is heing launched today, with eight teams playing in two conferences and then play-offs, leading to a grand final in August.

Bradford have launched Bull Tag, a version of touch rugby, that they plan to use as a participation sport in their community programme.

Cricket scoreboard

Benson and Hedges Cup Quarter-finals

LEICESTER: Leicesterative won by eight

Bowling Males 10-1-28-2; Cimroed 7-0-31-3; Wells 10-1-54-2; Lavin 16-0-16-0; Sim-mons 21-1-33-5; Dekin 3-0-4-0 LEICESTERSHIPE

Bowling: Headiny 7-0-23-0; Igglesden 8-0-24-0; Philips 52-0-38-0; Baltem 10-232-2; Planting 4-0-25-0; Hooper 5-0-35-0; Umpires: 2 Dudesthips and 3 Addition

ESSEX
O D J Robinson e Brown in Spacer
a O'the e Langue b Johnson
"I Lussain e Parepraisant in Spacer
16 J Robins o Dutch b Johnson
16 J Robins o Dutch b Johnson

To bet: A P Cover, N T Boft P M Such.
MIDDLESEE: JI Lenger, HT R Brown, "M
R Remprekent, O A Sheft, J C Pooley, K P
Dutch, P N Weetes, R L-Johnson, J P He-witt, I N Blanchett, A R C Fesset.
Umpliese: R Painter and A Clerkson.

Surrey y Lancashire

G O Lloyd c Stewart b Sallabury
Mitselm Akmim c 8 Hollbaire b Sallabury
Mitselm Akmim c 8 Hollbaire b Sallabury
IV K Hegg c Stewart b A J Hollbaire
I O Austin c Retaillife b Saciain
G Yatas c Riscillife b Saciain
G Chapple c Banjamin b Saciain Edine (65 we r62) 203 Potal (49.4 overs) 203 Felt 1-26 2-146 3-164 4-167 5-167 8-168 7-165 8-203 9-203 no. 8-205 9-205 Boufing: Bicknell 10-2-25-2; Benjamin 10-1-43-0; A Hollicete 7-0-35-1; Sectoin 94-0-48-4; Selectory 10-0-34-2; B Hollicete 3-0-15-0. A O Brown not out †AJ Stewart not out Edrae (w2)

Potras (NZ)
Total (for 0, 0.3 overs)
To bet B C Hollosie, G P Thorpe, "AJ Hollosie, A P Bucher, J O Receite, M P Bucher, I O K Salebury, Septem Musican, J E Bergarch.
Unspires: U R Shephard and A G T Whiteheed HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire won by 102 runs

Bowling: Sharwood 8-0-23-1; Gough 9-0-38-2; Hutchison 4-1-6-1; White 6-1-20-0; Hamilton 8-1-47-2; Vaughan 4-0-24-1; Lehman 4-0-7-2

ohmenn 4-0-27-2. Implicat: J.H. Herris, and M.J. Harris. Tour Match One day Minor Counties y South Africa STONE: South Africa won by 94 runs. Minor Counties won total

INOR COUNTIES
Pother by Heyward
J Dean c Boucher b Heyward
J Dean c Boucher b Heyward
R Gaywood c Boucher b Nini
Ward bw b Heyward
Cockein c Usleenberg b Electrity
G Hignett b Electrity
I Humptries b Nini
M Fletding st Boucher b Adams
A Thomas bw b Heyward
A Thomas bw b Heyward

8-163 9-162 Bowillog: Etworthy 8-0-33-2; Hayward 10-1-38-6; Mint 7:5-1-29-2; McAllian 6-0-26-0; Adams 10-0-45-1; Bacher 2-0-12-0. Umpires: C S Kelly and M P Moran. First Test Sri Lanks v New Zealand

COLOMBO: New Zealand are 282 for 7 itself first lunkings against Sri Lanka.

Ditrate (D6 w1 rb2)
Total (for 7).
282
Fatt 1-25 267 3-141 4-141 5-188 6-229 7-295
Fat bet: P J Wissener, S B Dout.
Bowling (to daile): Wickerrasinghe 9-0-39-1 (W), Jayasserdene 3-0-10-0; Banden-nellide 22-6-50-1; Maratharan 34-7-67-3 (Yrb); Bandera 13-5-4-0 (Int); Kalpage 5-SRI LANKA: "A Renetunge, ST Jayesuriya M S Arapettu, D R M Jayesuardene, P A de Shra, TR S Katuwithanana, R & Katpage, 6 a, 1R S Katawitharara, R & Kabage, G clearmainghe, C N Bandaratilete, M No-rarar, M Bandara. Starting today

AON TROPHY (one day, 11,0): Urms Lancashire v Durham.

MINOR COUNTIES

Colognes annual Grand Prix meeting will not take place this year because of finercial difficulties. The meeting which was the setting for two world records leat year was scheduled for 31 July. Baseball AMERICAN LEAGUE: Tempe Bey 7 Celdard 2: Bellimore 8 Seattle 3; Toronto 5 Boston 2; Clereland 9 Detroit 2; New York Yarkess 7 Chicago White Sox 5, NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Prencisco 5 Cindinal 2; New York Main 10 Portice 6; Atlente 9 Montal 3; Houston 18 Los Angeles 2: Medicare 3 Pittelough 2; San Dego 12 Antons 1. Basketball

Derby of the Buckweiser Leegue will hold a benefit match at the Storm Cen-tre on 13 June in honour of Stuart Solomon, their 28-year-old guard who was killed in a car crash last weekend. WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Berfile)
First recetch Group At Spain 64 Argentina 45;
Flussin 70 Chine 52 Group Bt Liftuarin 82 Sen-cyal 53; United States 95 Japan 99, Group Ct. Australia 92 Cube 85; Germany 86 Conpo 37. Group Dt. Stovelde 50 Hungary 44; Brazil 75 Sweth Korna 68.

HOMES TAYLOR LADIES TOURNAMENT (Whitehou, Blackpool): Third-round: P Chaderon (Pochdels) at 8 Yeas (Swinon) 21-55. J Joses (Barrian) at 8 Hollands (Barton) 21-55. J Poss (Pochdels) at 8 Patterson (Pochdels) 21-55. Poss (Pochdels) at 8 Patterson (Pochdels) at 9 Patterson (Pochdels) at 9 Patterson (Pochdels) at 9 McGuirk (Plannbottom) 21-26: C O'Prien (Doroclass) at 7 McGuirk (Plannbottom) 21-26: C O'Prien (Doroclass) at 7 McGuirk (Plannbottom) 21-27 (Plannbottom) Boxing

Richie Woodhall, the World Boding Council super-middleweight champi-on, is set to defend his title this sum-mer against the Italian Vincenzo Nardiello. The European featherweight champion Billy Hardy has been forced to pull out of his 9 June defence against Paul In-gle after damaging his right hand in training.

Mark Prince will detend his international Booing Federation Inter-Continental light-heavyweight title against Detroits Kanny Whack in Bristol on Saturday. Cricket New Zealand's cantain, Stephen Flaming, and Adam Parors hit filtes to guide their side to 282 for 7 on the first day of their first Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo. Sri Lankets Test debutant, the schoolboy Niroshan Bandaretilleke, took Matt Homes wicket in his first over. Cycling

CYCHING
CRRO DYTALIA Eleventh stage (214km, Mecenate to San Mechanic 1 A Nos (8 Asias Sir Sirtin
20ses; 2 N Perstant (6) Nercetans (1 tho + 7sec;
3 P Torkov (Rus) Nepol + 12; 4 D Rebellin (6)
Post; 5 I Gottl (6) Secol; 6 il Bernol (7) Asias;
7 A Zide (Swij) Pestina 8 L Lebiano (7) Asias;
9 L Roux (7) TVAC 10 G Geory (6) Pott; el serrio
4 Roux (7) TVAC 10 G Geory (7) Pott; el serrio
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7 Roux (7) TVA Equestrianism

THE SUPPOLA SHOW (preside): Burk of Soci-land Grand Prix (freceptorating World Charn-phorating intermitional Russ Trial): 1 Fervising () Perior) class, 450-4600; 2 Virsul Village Pay-mer () Writisher) class, 550-57 3 Abberval Presm () Lampsed class, 550-57 3 Abberval Presm () Lampsed class, 550-57 3 Abbraham () Writisher); 2 Virtual Village Rand () Writisher); 2 Virtual Village Rand () Writisher); 2 Virtual Village Rand () Writisher) class, 6699; 3 Millionoli () Research (class, 5508. Football The Manchester United winger Ber

Thornley has agreed a three-year con-tract with Huddersfield Town. John Dumin, the Portsmouth strikes has signed a new two-year contract worth an estimated \$200,000 as re-ward for scoring the goals which kept Alan Ball's side in the First Division. Stewart Mine, Aberdeen's executive vice-chairman, is to replace Ian Donald as chairman. Donald reverts to Port Vale midfielder Andy Porter

joined Wigari yesterday after 11 years with the Potteries club. KING HASSAN II INTERNATIONAL COP

Golf
EMGLISH LADIES AMATEUR CHAMPIONSI'M (Walton Heath, Survey) Second qualitying round: 144 E Ratchie (Sandway) 71 73.
147 L Walters (Chevit' R. 72, 158 K Hamiton (Cotswold Hills) 78 72; F Brown (Hexwell) 78 72 K Smith (Waterbookie) 79 72; K Father (Rosel Lythum and St Armes) 17 78; K Father (Rosel Lythum and St Armes) 17 78; K Fostom (Catheros) 78 75; B Tolyon (Sandford Springs) 78 75; B Hudeon (Winstelley) 78 72, 154 R Print (Beltithworth Park) 75 73, 155 N Lawrencen (Laomins) 79 76; C Court (Goodwood) 78 77; K Knowles (Warplesdon) 77 78, 156 S Coverie;

(Woodsome Hall) B1 75; J Thomfill (Walton Heart) B1 75; C Harron (Bromborough) 77 78; 157 S Nation; (Woodsome Hall) B3 78; D Wirnott (Baby Parks 80 77; L Simpson (Breuse) 78 78; K Stupples (Royal Cinque Porks 78 78; L Simpsombe (Cincrossies) B3 75; ISS J Lumb (Wast Wiler) B2 77; C Walson (Bedisnelled) B0 78; S Bandarson (The Berfanite) 78 83; 169 S Heath (Gridod) 81 79; K Evens (Moor Park) B1 79; C Hason (Cinnellar) 78 81. Hockey

quickly caught the ball again af-

MEMPS WORLD CUP (UTRECHT) Group B: Paidstan 3 Poland 1; Spain 3 Malayala D; Australia 3 England 0; Standings after 4 rounds: 1 Australia Tuber; 2 Spain 10; 3 Polatistan 9; 4 England 3; 5 Poland 1; 5 Malayala 1, WOMEN'S WORLD CUP (Utracht) Group A: Ching D USA 4, Group B; New Zeeland 2 England 1; India 2 Korea 4. ice hockey

Pools dividends UTTLEWOODS Trable thance: 20pts 2325420, 16 0495, five divisions only). Half-time result: 19tos 824,00, Pour draws 056,05, Mine hotses 0248,35, Six analys 0210. VERNOWS Trable chance: 20pts £102750. 19 £2,00. fluo dividende only). ZETTERS Treble chance: 20pts £200.75. 16 00x0. Straways CSID. Nine homes £0.20. Four draws £4.80. Looky sumbers; 11 52 26 636 24.

Rugby League Martin Hall, Castleford Tigers' hook-et, has left the club after failing to agree new terms following his arrival tast month on a short term contract. Hall had previously been released by Wigan Warriors. Rugby Union

The New Zealand fly-half Simon Man-nix has left Sale to join Premiership ri-vals Gloucester. Mannix has not played for Sale since February due to a dis-pute with the club's management. The former England fiv-half Les Cus-worth has been appointed managing director of Worcester RFC Trading Ltd. tretand will cap the former Springbok

Today's fixtures

Speedway ELITE LEAGUE: Ipswich v Oxford (730); Swindon v Coventry (730). PREMIER LEAGUE CUP: Shelfield v Stoke (745).

Other sports

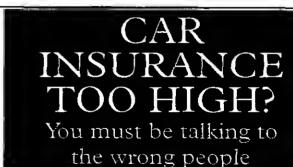
Sevens captain Dion O'Culmeagain for their South African tour match against Boland on Saturday. RELAND: O'Shee, Topping, Bell, McCall, Hicke, Bwood, McGairmens, Costallo, Ward, O'Cainnee-

Sailing

Sailing
SPA QLYMPIC CLASSES REGATTA (Mederablik, Neth) First day; 1 M Dadlie (Bol) 1pt; w1
AL Diaz (Bol) 1; 3 J Wisdoner (Aut) 2. Other GB:
75 Robertson 4; 23 D Winstania V2; 57 T Mosa
29; 90 J Singleton 35, Miletral Merr. Group A:
1 J Rodrigues (Por) 1pt; 2 N Melhomanusis (Gr)
2; 3 A Inter (let) 3. Other GB: 7 H Plumb 7; 15
B Profitt 5, Miletral Merr. Group 6; 1 M Malek,
Por) 1pt; 2 A Methody (PO) 2; 3 C Emphoda (Aut)
3. Other GB: 12 N Dempsey 2; 23 R Garin 22;
23 G Mont 25, Laser Cleest 1 J Syprofit (Br)
1 Other GB: 31 M Baron 11; 45 J Plve 18; 84
A Dosles 29; 104 G Pricatoy 43, 478 Merr. 1 T
Copaz and M Margon (Sowal), 1pt; = 1 P Rodrigues
1 D Mar GB: 31 M Baron 11; 45 J L Zeitmer and E
Krathe (Gal) 2. Other GB: 31 N Baron 13
Gardielf 15; 81 C Edwards and S Irish 26; 63
D Sones and M Hogen 52.

DIDIVIDUAL TROPHY (St Australi): 1 Simmonds (Euster); 2 S Bishop (St Australi) 3 R Lobb (Euster); 4 W Berrett (St Australi)

Lucie Ahi, Louise Latimer and Amenda Janes have all been awarded wild cards into the ladies' Challenger tourcards into the ladies' Challenger tour-nament at Surbiton next week.
FRENCH OPEN (Stade Roland Garme, Parist: Men's singles, second-resect M ROS (Chis) to I & Avenus (26) 64 62 62 A COSTA (Sp) to M K Goelnar (Sen) 84 83 8-1; W Ferneira (SA) to M Norman (Sen) 84 8-1; W Ferneira (SA) to M Norman (Sen) 84 8-48-4; J Van Henck (Sel) bt J Mas (Sp) 6-37-6 7-5; F Meigen (Br) to V Speden (US) 7-87-6 5-3; BUTHACH (Carlo) bt M Principuses (Aus) 5-6-67-7-5-8-4-9-7; J Kripperchid (Gen) bt J Courier (US) 8-4-8-2-8-3 Women's implex, sec-ond-round: V WILLAMS (US) bt A Suphrems (Japan) 6-0-8-1; A Dechaum-Bellerd (F) A Ger-si (Cz Pap) 6-2-7-7; M HNGS (Swi) bt M Belber (Gen) 9-1-8-2





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the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man. Touchline records telephone calls

History beckons a filly taking on the big boys

By Richard Edmondson

THE flying filly Cape Verdi is in the greatest test of them all, the Derby, at Epsom a week oo Saturday. The 1,000 Guineas winner will attempt to become

Cape Verdi, who was expected to run in - and easily win - the Classic restricted to fillies,

plementary entry stage seven to take on history and the colts to enter her for the Derby, which run). carries prize-money of £500,000.

Cape Verdi's inclusioo sets the first of her sex to capture the up an intriguing contest be- on the Newmarket gallops on Classic since Fifinella in 1916. tween Godolphin and their Tuesday. "It's going to be a very great rivals, the Irish team green team expect to have the racing manager, said yester-

William Hill, in the Derby, and her owners, Godolphin, £75,000 Second Empire (7-4 with a

Cape Verdi herself is a 9-4 Cape Verdi will have to finish at shot, which will not appear least fourth to recoup the outlay. dreadful value to those who watched her work thrillingly difficult race for her but she's spearheaded by the Ballydoyle in tremendous form right now," trainer, Aidan O'Brien. The Simon Crisford, the Godolphin

ey of £200,000, will be put in the 2,000 Guineas winner, King Of day. "If she can get to the races Derby at Saturday's special sup- Kings, an 11-2 chance with in the same condition that she is in now and the ground is in days before the race. It will cost may also be represented by her favour then she goes there with a tremendous chance."

Crisford received the news that Cape Verdi was to be eotered in a phone call from. Godolphin's boss, Sheikh Mohammed, oo Tuesday night. This is the fifth season of operation for the royal hlue silks of Godolphin, which specialises in taking horses from Britain at the end of their two-year-old careers for a winter's nurturing in

Cape Verdi was bought from Sheikh Mohammed's former No 1 adversary Robert Sangster last year for a reputed £1m. News of her rapid progression filtered back from the Gulf over the colder months and the filly confirmed the reports with a five-length victory in the Guineas earlier this month. She now aims to go one better than Nobiliary, the last notable filly in the race when chasing home Grundy in 1975. "Sheikh Mohammed and Sheikh Maktoum [his older brother] are

the Sheikh's Dubai homeland. keen to take up the challenge," Crisford added. "This is great for horseracing and great for the Derby. But it's going to be a huge challenge because it's not just a question of whether the filly has got the class to win the race, which I think she has already

> "She has to have the run of the race and be lucky in running. There's going to be a lot of pushing and scrimmaging. And she's got to have the stamina to see out the 12 furlongs."

If Cape Verdi is successful

she will complete a full set of Classics for both Godolphin and their rider, Frankie Dettori.

The announcement will cheer both Epsom and those who have supported the filly for the Derby, though there will be less delirium among punters who hold long range vouchers for the Oaks, for which Cape Verdi was considered a near certainty. "Nobody said that ante-post betting was not a risky business," Cristord said. Now it is Godolphin themselves who are taking a risk.

Racing, page 29

Fillies who have won the Derby 157: Bloc Bonny (20-1) Fillies Derby record since 1919 1944: Garden Euch-(5-1). Hoh of 20 gride Neckling (20-1) ments of 18 gride Paragrams LD (200-1) for of 20-

Owen record strike lights up England

Football

By Glenn Moore in Casablanca

Morocco England

HAVING been jeered by their own supporters on Saturday, England were cheered off by and, after 26, gave up the strugthose of their opponents last gle with injury. The problem apnight as they gained an ultimately comfortable victory. The result caused uproar here with the home side being whistled off the pitch under a hail of bottles as bonfires were lit oo the terracing. In the England dressingroom though, the only warmth was a glow of satisfaction.

It was not, in truth, a distinguished or eveo accomplished performance but, after a dismal first half, England ootably improved, winning through a 58thminute goal by Michael Owen. It made him the youogest goalscorer for England this

England's day had started well with Paul Ince declared fit Saudi Arabia oo Saturday. The survivors were Gareth Southgate, oow at ceotre-half, and Darren Anderton, who was given a second start oo the right flank. Paul Gascoigne and Steve McManaman were given playrole. In attack, Ian Wright made his first start since Rome as he

The partnership was not to 10 minutes, Wright weot down in the box holding his left leg fender, summed up the ineptpeared to be the same calf which troubled him towards the end of the domestic season.

Wright was still making his way to the dressing-room, with his leg heavily strapped, when England looked as if they had lost another striker. Owen, chasing a long hall, clattered into the Moroccan goalkeeper, Driss Benzekri. He lay still for several minutes as the England medical staff and a coocerned Glenn Hoddle gathered around him. Fortunately, he was sooo able to resume play.

There had been little such drama in the football. Morocco, roared oo by a capacity crowd in the Mohammed V Stadium, inute and it was soon evident that they were a compereot and composed side.

This was partly due to the cootrast between their mastery of the ball and pitch compared to England's. Having heeo sporadically sloppy

making responsibilities inside against the Saodis, England him with Ince in the holding made a habit of it yesterday with Paul Gascoigne the leading culprit. The Middlesbrough formed a new pairing with Dion midfielder had an awful half, giving the ball away and being caught in possession. One freemanage a shot in anger. After kick in a dangerous positioo, which rolled straight at a de-

> McManaman was little better and the forwards were given precious little opportunity to put Benzekri under pressure. But while Morocco, with largely European-based team, had the bulk of possession England's defence were able to keep them at bay well enough - a fact that Tim Flowers, needing to prove his fitness, may not have been entirely delighted aboot.

ness of his display.

Not that the defending was unblemished, Gareth Southgate and Martin Keown both made the sort of tackles from behind which could lead to a red card in the World Cup. As it was, Keown received a yellow.

Both teams re-emerged after the break with a more posto captain the side after shak- had signalled their ambitions itive inteot. England were first ing off his ankle injury. He led a side showing nine changes back Abdelilah Saber in the sector at the far post from Graeme Le instruction of the sector of cootainmeot, while side after state injury. He led a side showing nine changes back Abdelilah Saber in the sector of cootainmeot, while injury is a side showing nine changes back Abdelilah Saber in the sector of cootainmeot, while injury is a side showing nine changes back Abdelilah Saber in the sector of cootainmeot, while injury is a side showing nine changes back Abdelilah Saber in the sector of cootainmeot, while injury is a side showing nine changes back Abdelilah Saber in the sector of cootainmeot, while injury is a side showing nine changes back Abdelilah Saber in the sector of cootainmeot, while injury is a side showing nine changes back Abdelilah Saber in the sector of cootainmeot, while injury is a side showing nine changes back Abdelilah Saber in the sector of cootainmeot, while injury is a side showing nine changes back Abdelilah Saber in the sector of cootainmeot, while injury is a side showing nine changes back Abdelilah Saber in the sector of cootainmeot, while injury is a side showing nine changes back Abdelilah Saber in the sector of cootainmeot a side showing nine changes back Abdelilah Saber in the sec- at the far post from Graeme Le just over the bar. Saux's cross theo Owen looking hopefully for a penalty after falling in the box under a challenge from Youssef Rossi.

Morocco responded with a 25-yard shot from Said Chiba, which gave Flowers his first exercise of the match, and another



England's goalscorer Michael Owen gets on the wrong end of a heavy challenge from the Moroccan goalkeeper Driss Benzekri

Keown made a good interceptioo after an Ince error hut, just as it seemed England would pay for their laxity, they scored. The goal came from a Moroccan corner which was headed clear by first Ince, then Campbell. The ball came to McMa-

namen who carried it upfield beforce having benefited from a hocky bounce, played an intellucky bounce, played an intel
England then settled for a policy of cootainment, while seeking to hit on the break. It the break is the policy of cootainment, while seeking to hit on the break. It the policy of cootainment is the policy of cootainment, while seeking to hit on the break. It the policy of cootainment is the policy of cootainment, while seeking to hit on the break. It the policy of cootainment is ligeof and accurate ball for Owen. His flick took him past the last defender and the young Liverpool forward scored with the nonchalance to which Premiership spectators have already become accustomed.

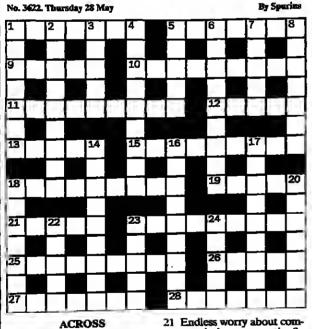
Ferdinand twice created chances for Gascoigne to celebrate his 31st birthday with a goal Neither was takeo but, with Flowers saving well from Ali El Khattabi. England held on to win.

Chapo (Porto), Qualda (mismon 1960), Bessit (Deportivo La Courie), Pold (Raja Casablence), Substitutes: El Khettabi (Hearaneen) for Rold, 63; Amzine (Mis-house) for Chipa, 63; Rede (Pela Casablence) for Ouskil, 73; Saltami (Reja Casablence) for Chipo, 76.

Casananca; or Capu, ro.
ENGLAND (3-5-2): Flowers (Blackburn
Rovers): Keown (Arsenel), Southgata (Ae-ton Vila), Campbell (folderham); Anderbon (Totterham), Gascoligne (Mediestrough), Ince (Uverpool), McManaman (Uverpool),

 England will definitely face competition from South Africa to host the 2006 World Cup, after the country's government yesterday agreed to back a bid to take the finals to Africa for the

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Concession will accommo date demand for shellfish Spatially challenged sheet

just a rag, really (7) Deep craft? (1-4) 10 Gloomy South American bridge player about to re-

11 Curse and swear as sheep and lamb stray? (9)
12 Skin decoration used by women when navel's revealed?

13 Earl and knight taking page around dark wood (5) 15 Tense, exhibiting a number of faults? (9) 18 Old city in south-east a prey to the German warship (9) 19 Source of report in question, held by financial regu-

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21 Endless worry about commander's concentration?

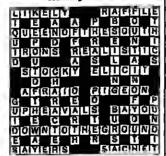
23 Pub snack, for instance, good after a drink? (6,3)
25 "Chewing carrion without a hint of veg" a definition of these? (9)

16 Squire conceals crime in these? (9) 26 Asked about student's knife (5)

27 Waterproof paints and ink, specially treated (7) 28 Prince's unusual role around eastern court (7) DOWN

Way beard initially appears in shadowy hlue? (7) Putting loam on ground in Australia's seen as irregular

Respite for junior officer, at Oxford to assimilate English (3-2)



Shame about East German ruler's children (9) Article about Italian eccelsi astical duty (5)

Diagrams showing support structure in hospital (3-6) Head's judgement not very good (5) Shape that's constant when

controlled by calorie al-lowance? (3-4)

Over two seconds to get three feet? That's standard

clergyman's home (9) Ebullient Texan unwisely ac cepts dole money with little hesitation (9)
18 Whether right or not, fed-up player's last to be dismissed (2-5)

20 Plant listening device in Paddington, source of great annoyance (7)
22 Ultimately, scientific examination identifies marine organisms (5) 23 Old jokes introduced by son

producing derision (5) Conservative clever enough to get the message (5)

Woodward to blood England young guns

Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

SIX mooths ago, Clive Woodward chose in tackle John Eales and his touring Wallahies with the least experienced England side in a generation. Much to the Australians' well-documented chagrin, the national coach is still at it; yesterday, he named four new caps in an outfit so wet behind the ears that they might easily tempt Cow & Gate into the sports sponsorship

business. When Matthew Dawson, the Northampton scrum-half, leads out his country in Brisbane on Saturday week, the back division will feature a rookie right wing in Spencer Brown and a debutant ceotre in Steve Ravenscroft. Jonny Wilkinson, the Premiership-winning teeoager with all of five minutes' international experience in the bank, will be making his first full appearance at stand-off.

To make matters more interesting still. Woodward has made space for Tim Stimpson, a Lions full-back last summer but persona non grata at Newcastle ever since, by asking Matt Perry to learn a brand new trade as a Test midfielder. By comparison, the pack is positively gnaried; the new back-row boys, Ben Sturnham and Pat Sanderson, will be able to look to a tight five boasting a lavish 40 caps between them.

"Every position was up for and first-choice kicker." debate and it was a sufficiently

sitting up at night wondering whether I'd got it right," said Woodward before flying out yesterday evening. "But it was exciting, too. When I came to the iob last autumn, 1 took special pleasure in seeing someone like Perry take his chance. The opportunity is now there for a number of others and 1 don't suppose I'll have to spend much time mo-

tivating them." If Woodward spent a few sleepless nights pacing the bedroom floor, one position cost him more shut-eye than any other. "Outside centre was a headache," he revealed. "We've had quite a fall-out in the midfield positions - no [Jeremy] Guscott or [Phil] de Gianville, oo [Will] Greenwood or [Mike] Catt - and I thought it best to ask Perry to make the move. He's been a hig success for us and he

has a very versatile rugby brain." Stimpson's sudden re-emergence after a season of bitter solation at club level was always on the cards once Greenwood became the last of the front-line centres to withdraw from the four-Test tour of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. "Tim has suffered a horrendous year, hut he's confident about his match fitness despite his lack of Premiership rugby. If there is a problem, we'll soon find out about it in the southern hemisphere environment. As it

Wallabies, both as full-back Beo Clarke, a Lioo in all

stands, he'li play against the

difficult procedure to leave me senses of the word in New Zealand five years ago, might have given the England forwards some real know-how; his 33 caps make him by far the most experienced tourist. Woodward rates both Sturnham and Tony Diprose ahead of him, however, so he must make do with captaining the midweck side against New Zealand A in

Hamilton on 13 June. The Richmond flanker will be joined in a more seasoned pack by Steve Ojomoh, a former cluh-mate at Bath, and the Gloucester engine-room partoership of Roh Fidler and David Sims. Nick Beal, a 1997 Lion in South Africa, is scheduled to continue his top-level rehabilitation at full-back while Josh Lewsey, Bristol's disaffected outside-half, has beaten Alex King to the pivot position.

"I'm the first to admit that this is an unfamiliar party, but they're all professionals who have made an impact on the Premiership scene," said the coach. "Wheo we get out there against Australia, it will be 15 against 15. There will be pride and amhitioo and a massive amount of effort. I think some of these guys have the capacity to shock themselves."

by U. Sirven, the histories, Brishens, 6 June);
T Stimpson (Leicester); S Brown (Richmond), M Perry (Bath), S Rawtesternt (Burscons), A Healey (Leicester); U Wilkinson (Neventede), M Davisson (Northampton: capt); G Rowntres (Leicester), P Cockerill (Leicester), P Vickery (Bioucoster), D Gravencek (Saracens), G Archer (Neucaste), S Stambass (Seracens), P Sandamon (Seriacens), P Sandamon (Seriacens),

The ultimate Tests, page 28



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